

CLUB NEWS

Headquarters

Doubtless members will have heard or guessed from the absence of further news that the opportunity to buy the large house (Middle Haydon Farmhouse) mentioned in the recent circular letter has unfortunately passed. It was sold for a figure (£1450) that at the time the Committee were unprepared to better, not having had time to consider in detail the financial aspect of such a purchase, and the attendant problems of conversion and improvement of services and the like. The property at Haydon consisted of a farmhouse with twelve rooms and three out-buildings in half an acre of ground, which in time could have provided the sort of H.Q. that a club the size of Wessex needs, and the sort of facilities enjoyed by the South Wales C.C.

The unprecedented response to the recent questionnaire (65% of the total membership) indicates that a very large proportion of the members are aware of our urgent need to provide fuller H.Q. facilities and that 173 members are in favour of the principle of acquiring permanent freehold property for this purpose. Only three were against the idea. The Committee are therefore seriously looking for a property and considering ways and means to finance a possible opportunity, thinking that the right place might cost between £1500 and £2000 to purchase and get into shape.

Meanwhile facilities at Hillgrove are to be expanded and improved with a minimum of expense to ease the overcrowding until such time as a suitable property can be purchased and made habitable.

Assistant Secretary

David Causer has, in view of his possible departure to the States, been obliged to tender his resignation as Assistant Secretary. The post was promptly filled by Tim Reynolds from the ranks of the Committee and Dave has been elected to fill the resulting Committee vacancy.

In the past the Assistant Secretary has had no specific duties but has rendered general help when called upon by the Secretary. The new Assistant Secretary, Tim Reynolds of Yew Court, Pangbourne, Berks, has agreed to handle the following chores, previously dealt with by the Secretary:-

1. Applications for membership.
2. Issue of Cave Keys - Lamb Leer (processing of Blood Chits)
Cow Hole
G.B. (via U.B.S.S.)
3. Provision of Indemnity Forms and issue of Permits for the C.C.C. area.

Tim will also continue to administer the Survey Scheme.

Car Badges

Wessex car badges are available from C.J. Hawkes, 14-7 Evington Lane, Leicester. Price 32/6d.

New Members

We welcome the following new members elected since the last Journal was produced:

- Elected 26.1.64. D.P.W. Gumbleton, Welham Farm Cottage, Castle Cary, Som.
T. Phillips, High Point, Stowe Rise, Buckingham.
- Elected 15.3.64. A.St.J .Duck, 70 Queen's Rd., Bishopsworth, Bristol 3.
D. Savage, 62 St. Pauls Rd., Clifton, Bristol 8.
Mrs. R.J. Cleave (joint), "Downstream", Nutbourne, Chichester, W. Sussex.
N.R. Barrington, The Oak House, The Square, Axbridge.

Lamb Leer

The old quarry near Lamb Leer Cave where cavers were in the habit of parking cars and changing has been gated and locked to prevent the accumulation of dumped rubbish. A key can be obtained from the farmer at Beaconsfield Farm (perhaps a small charge will be made) for those who are touchy about changing at the roadside. Arrangements for keys to the cave remain unchanged (available from the Asst. Secretary nowadays). Guests and Affiliated Club members should in all cases sign a blood chit which must be returned to the Asst. Secretary before keys can be forwarded.

Stoke Lane

Following the recent case of Weil's disease the Public Health Authorities examined the stream that flows through Stoke St. Michael and reported that in mid-February there were no rats present.

Found Wrist watch with broken strap, in St. Cuthberts, apply to Secretary.

Lost Wrist watch, men's "Smith's", with only buckle half of brown leather strap. Lost 2nd November 1963 on floor of Main's Barn - Tim Atkinson, Sidcot School.

Mendip Cave Registry

Registers have now been housed in the County Borough of Bristol Central Library and in the City of Wells County Library and are available for reference. Each will be reviewed and brought up to date at six monthly intervals. Although fundamentally of speleological interest, the registers are so complete that they will prove invaluable to many allied studies, e.g. geology, geography, local history and archaeology.

Reprint of Vol 1, W.C.C. Journal

Work on reprinting Volume 1 of the Club Journal is now complete and copies may be obtained from A.D. Oldham, 43 Ashley Hill, Bristol 6, at 7/6 post free, or from the Secretary by hand. The issue contains records of the Club from its foundation in 1934 to the first of the present style Journal in 1950 - over 140 duplicated quarto pages.

Geoff Roberts, 10 Gay St., Bath, Somerset, would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be willing to part with any of the following caving publications:

"British Caver" Nos. 10, 11, 12, 20, 23 and 24.

"Caves & Caving" No.2.

W.C.C. Journal Nos. 26 to 49, 50, 53, 69, 77, 87, 88 & 89.

Index

Once again we have to thank Trevor Shaw for all the hours of work spent on compiling the index to Volume 7 which just scraped through to get sent out with the last Journal.

Access to Northern Caves

A recent publication (in the W.C.C. Library) issued by the Cave Rescue Organisation, entitled "Permission to Explore Northern Caves and Potholes" and obtainable from the Hon. Sec., C.R.O., 29 Norfolk Avenue, Burnley, Lancs, (price 2/-) gives invaluable information to all those contemplating a trip to Yorkshire regarding the right person to approach for permission to visit any particular cave. Everyone is advised to consult this booklet before planning any expedition in the north.

When visiting Derbyshire members are advised to write to the Hon. Sec., North Midland Group of the B.S.A., before visiting Oxlow Mine, Nettle Pot and other holes in this area. His address is: 6 Twentywell View, Bradway, Sheffield.

Situations Vacant

The Editor would be very pleased to hear from any member (or wife or friend) who would be willing to give a hand to Brenda Willis with the typing of future Journal stencils. A knowledge of caving terms is very helpful and ability to decipher non-copperplate handwriting sometimes essential!

CLUB MEETS

12th April Balch Cave. Meet at the Quarry 11 a.m.

Names please to George Pointing, 10 Green Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol,

Also Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet, organiser Alan Surrall, 25 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32.

25th April Eastwater. Meet at the cave 3.0 p.m.

Leader Rodney Hobbis, Warren Lodge, Long Ashton, Bristol.

Also Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet.

9th May St. Cuthberts. Meet at the Belfry 3.0 p.m.

Leader Jim Giles. Names to Rodney Hobbis, Warren Lodge, Long Ashton, Bristol.

16/18th May Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet. Also 30th May.

13th/14th June South Wales. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

Oliver Lloyd is organising a trip to Cwm Dwr and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. Names to Oliver Lloyd, Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol 9.

Club Trip to Ireland Fortnight commencing June 13th.

One or two places still available for latecomers. Write to:- Allan Rigg, 26 Wynford Road, Frome, Somerset (please note change of address).

14th June Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet.

28th June G.B. Meet at the Cave 11 a.m.

Leader: Roy Staynings, 8 Fanshawe Road, Hengrove, Bristol 4.

Also Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet.

12th July Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet.

1st/3rd August Club Dig at Thrupe Swallet.

12th/13th September Steep Holm.

Names to Roy Staynings, 8 Fanshawe Rd., Hengrove, Bristol 4. (Be prepared for a long weekend!)

Cave Research Group

First National meeting for 1964 will be held in Wells on Saturday, 2nd May. (No further details yet available). Members of member clubs (i.e. Wessex) and visitors are welcome.

The British Speleological Association are holding a National Speleological Conference and International Exhibition at Settle High School, Giggleswick, from Saturday 5th to Monday 7th September. Admission to Conference events only 5/- Copies of Proceedings (including entry to Conference) 15/-. Further details if required from; J.C. Gilbert, 33 Broomgrove Rd., Sheffield 10.

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

Hon. Asst. Secretary: T.E. Reynolds, Yew Court, Pangbourne, Berks.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. B.M. Willis, 3 Derwent Lodge, St. Philip's Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.

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

Hut Bookings: P.N. Riches, Priory Cottage, Chewton Mendip, Bath, Som. Phone: Ch. Mendip 357.

Activities Secretary: C.R. Hobbs, Warren Lodge, Long Ashton, Bristol. Phone: Long Ashton 2127.

SURVEY SCHEME

The following surveys are now available: -

Holwell Cavern	2s. 9d.
Lamb Leer Cavern	3s. 6d.
Balch Cave (plan)	3s. 6d.
Balch Cave (section)	3s. 6d.
Quaking House Cave, Milverton	2s. 3d.
Threaplunds Cave	3s. 6d.
St. Cuthbert's Swallet (plan)	2s. 6d.
St. Cuthbert's Swallet (section)	2s. 6d.
Pate Hole, Nr. Appleby, Westmorland	2s. 3d.
Stoke Lane Slocker	3s. 9d.
Eastwater Swallet (2 sheets)	7s. 9d.
Swildons Hole - 1/2,000	2s. 9d.
Swildons Hole - 1/1,500	3s. 9d.
Longwood/August - Sheet 1	5s. 6d.
" - Sheet 2	4s. 0d.
" - Sheet 3	3s. 6d.
Goatchurch	2s. 6d.
Coopers Hole	2s. 6d.
Ubley Hill Pot	2s. 0d.
Pine Tree Pot	3s. 0d.
G.B.Cavern	3s. 6d.

Note: August/Longwood Survey.

Sheet 1 consists of a plan of the complete known system with a projected elevation. It also includes a sketch showing the relationship to the surface. Scale 1 cm to 10 ft.

Sheet 2. Plan of upper series only on a larger scale. The scale used on Sheet 1 is really too small to depict the complicated upper series. Scale 1 in. to 10 ft.

Sheet 3. True length elevation of the complete known system and cross sections. Scale 1 cm to 10 ft.

The prices given above do NOT include postage and packing. To cover this the following charges apply:-

1 Survey	1s. 0d.
2 Surveys	1s. 3d.
3-4. Surveys	1s. 6d.
5-6 Surveys	1s. 9d.
7-10 Surveys	2s. 0d.
Over 10 Surveys	2s. 3d.

The surveys are sent folded in an envelope. Members preferring to receive them in a tube should send a tube plus an extra 9d. (to cover extra postage) with their order.

Surveys are obtainable from:-

T.E. REYNOLDS, YEW COURT, PANGBOURNE, BERKS.

Cash with orders, please. Cheques & P.O's payable to "T.E. Reynolds".

MORE OF THE DARN PLACE

W.I. Stanton

When in 1957 I wrote an article for the Journal entitled "No End to the Darn Place" I vaguely foresaw an uncomfortable future in which, plagued by increasing girth and years, I made long exhausting surveying trips to ever more remote ramifications of Swildon's Hole, as these were discovered by the energetic and virile younger generation. This bad dream has unfortunately come true, though much ameliorated by such factors as the appearance of goon suits and the hard work of my colleagues Derek Ford, Oliver Lloyd and Fred Davies. Nevertheless, the revised edition of the Swildon's survey is still incomplete, with the latest extension of Vicarage Passage still unmapped and awaiting Oliver's recovery.

This article presents an up-to-date Grade 6 survey of the Shatter Passage - Southeast Inlets region of Paradise Regained, the new additions being the result of two visits in September 1963. The Shatter Passage trip was a reasonably short and straightforward one, thanks to able stooging by Fred Davies who had done it before at Grade 4? but the mapping of the notorious Swine-Puke series was a complicated operation involving the use of 120ft. of ladder (excluding the Forty and Twenty in Swildon's One). A party of Scouts led by Fred sherpaed the tackle in, and then Phil Davies, Rod Hobbis and Christopher Hawkes fought it up the dreaded 42ft. rift and used it to make the first descent of Shatter Pot from this unusual direction. Meanwhile Nick Hart, Jim Giles and I surveyed Sidcot Passage. On returning to Shatter Pot by the ordinary route we found the Secretary and his henchmen looking rather smug at having pioneered another round trip, and were impressed by the sight of their ladder and doubled lifeline descending from the highest part of the roof into the depths of the Pot, clear of any wall. It was necessary to descend the Pot to start the 50ft. climb up into the roof, which was rendered hazardous, half way up, by the attentions of the hostile audience (waiting to take out the ladders) in the dress circle only a few yards away. Getting off at the top of the ladder, which was belayed to a jammed boulder, was quite tricky. This part of the survey, from a fixed point near Shatter Pot to Terminus Chamber, in low comfortless tubes most of the way, was a trial of patience nobly borne by all present. Nevertheless the hoped-for closure via the 42ft. rift was left for "another day". The trip took 12 hours.

Five survey stations were permanently marked, and their vital statistics in feet relative to the Swildon's grid are as follows;

EASTINGS	NORTHINGS	ALTITUDE	NOTES
10,703.2	9,607.3	504.9	In roof of Shatter Pot. Drill mark 4ft up in NE wall of passage
10,813.8	9,497.2	491.7	Below climb to Bat Dig. Drill mark in stal flow c. 5ft above floor, in west wall, facing down passage.
10,823.9	9,433.7	451.0	End of Shatter Passage. Drill mark 6ft. above floor in rock surface facing back up main passage.

10,940.1	9,760.0	563.6	End of Sidcot Passage. Drill mark 4ft. above floor on NW wall, 12ft. back from dig.
10,943.7	9,764.0	657.5	Terminus Chamber. Battered rock corner 4ft. above floor in south wall, marked by smoke arrows above and below.

The drill marks are holes about half an inch deep made with a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch rock drill. This drill did not get as far as Terminus Chamber, hence the “battered corner” there.

As usual I am led to make a few observations

1. Possibilities in the Southeast Inlets

In the upper or Swine-Puke series several tiny passages are still unexplored, and could be penetrated by a ferret with little or no digging. I doubt if they will lead to anything important, but maybe that is surveyor's wishful thinking.

The scalloping that is so prominent a feature in this series has its origin in Terminus Chamber and runs down the tunnels to the head of the 35ft. drop where, surprisingly, it turns off into the choked passage leading southeast. Scalloping is much less noticeable in the passage from the 35ft. drop to Shatter Pot. The altitude and position of the choked passage suggests that it may lead to the upper end of Candy's Calamity, where scalloping is quite well developed.

By far the most exciting possibilities lie in the main upstream chokes of Swine-Puke and Sidcot Passage, since, as Derek Ford has shown (Ph.D. thesis, unpublished) they probably lead to an old choked swallet or swallets in the valley floor somewhere between the Priddy Green Dig and the present Swildon's entrance. There is a sporting chance of finding a quick and easy route from the surface to Shatter Passage, for the tunnels between Shatter Pot and Terminus Chamber climb two-thirds of the way to ground level in only 500ft. From Shatter Passage to the present entrance the distance is half a mile.

From Terminus Chamber the way on must be the pit in the floor, which is presumably a down step in a passage that seems to be phreatic throughout (no trenching at the 10ft. drop). The sand choke at the end of Sidcot Passage has already been pushed a few feet by the Sidcot cavers, but they made things difficult for themselves by digging a tiny burrow instead of a man-sized trench. There is plenty of room. Comparing the two passages, Swine-Puke reaches nearer the surface but is rather cramped, whereas Sidcot is a big spacious affair. Either dig is a fair bet.

2. Possibilities in Shatter Passage

Shatter Passage was the phreatic main drain that took water coming from the Southeast Inlets, St. Paul's Series and Trouble Series (not all at the same time) to an unknown destination. The

exceptionally large bore of the passage speaks for itself. The final choke is a down step where progress is rendered very difficult by the presence of a small stream that floods the dig. On September 3rd 1963 the dig sumped 10ft.

The three other digs in Shatter Passage are in passages of minor importance. Two are red herrings, only the Bat Dig offering some small chance of bypassing the final choke. But it too was flooded last autumn. The passage a few feet west of Bat Dig ascends very steeply for 25ft. before it is partly blocked by a stal flow that needs banging. It is the only other site of any promise.

The final choke is unlikely to succumb to the kind of burrowing technique that opened Shatter Passage. Undoubtedly there is ample room to sink a man-sized trench, but the problem will be to stop it flooding. Alternatively the roof could be raised by drilling and blasting - there seems to be no lack of enthusiasts for the quick chemical process. Whatever method is used, there can be no doubt that this choke bars the way into the dry master cave, and merits a really serious onslaught.

3. The need for easier access to the more remote parts of Swildon's

The harder it is to get to an underground dig, the harder it is to find diggers. This axiom may not apply in Aggy Aggy, but it generally does in Mendip. And in Swildon's all the promising digs are a long tedious trek from the entrance.

The ultimate solution to this problem is to open new entrances from the surface to the remote places. There are currently three potential entrances to Swildon's, via Fools Paradise, the Southeast Inlets and the Priddy Green Swallet, and no doubt more inlets will be found as the master cave is pushed further. Meanwhile it helps to eliminate the more seriously energy-sapping obstacles en route to the dig, so far as is possible. The rigid ladder on Greasy Chimney, and the opening of the short cut "Kenney's Dig" on the way to the Black Hole, are good examples. Any means of reducing the quantity of tackle carried into the cave on each trip is especially important.

On the way to Shatter Passage the Forty is the first such obstacle. It is such a Mendip landmark that I dare not recommend installing a rigid ladder (though such action would terminate misunderstandings over de-tackling). The Twenty on the other hand is only a nuisance, and a rigid ladder there would be a big improvement. The same applies to Shatter Pot. Finally, the abominable squeeze into Shatter Passage, only passable by writhing down to it head first on one's back, must be removed, by a few hours digging from the far side.

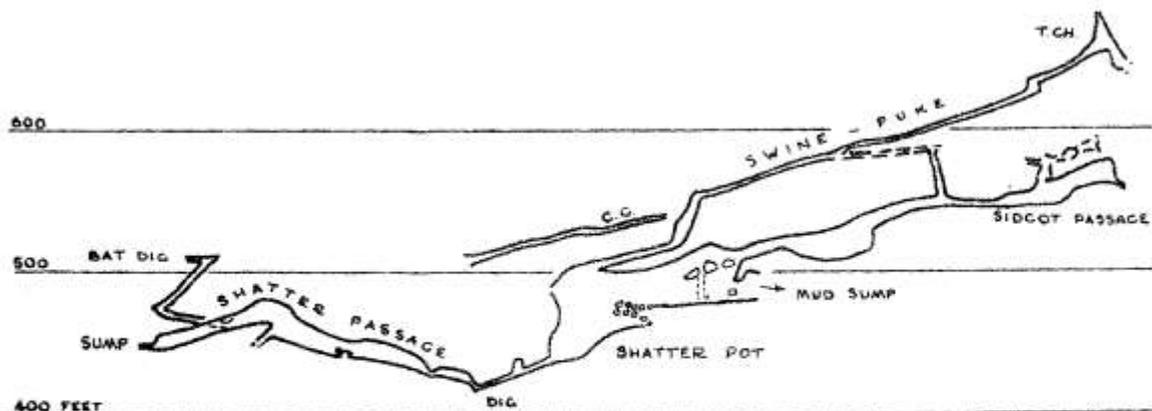
In the Southeast Inlets the old maypole pitch out of Keith's Chamber is one of those climbs that are easy when you know how, but it is rather exposed and a slip could lead to a nasty fall. A couple of spikes might be cemented into the walls for good hand-holds. The infamous 42ft. rift up to Swine-Puke is not tight, only smooth and slippery, and could be converted to an easy climb by cementing in crossbars at appropriate points.

EXTENDED SECTION

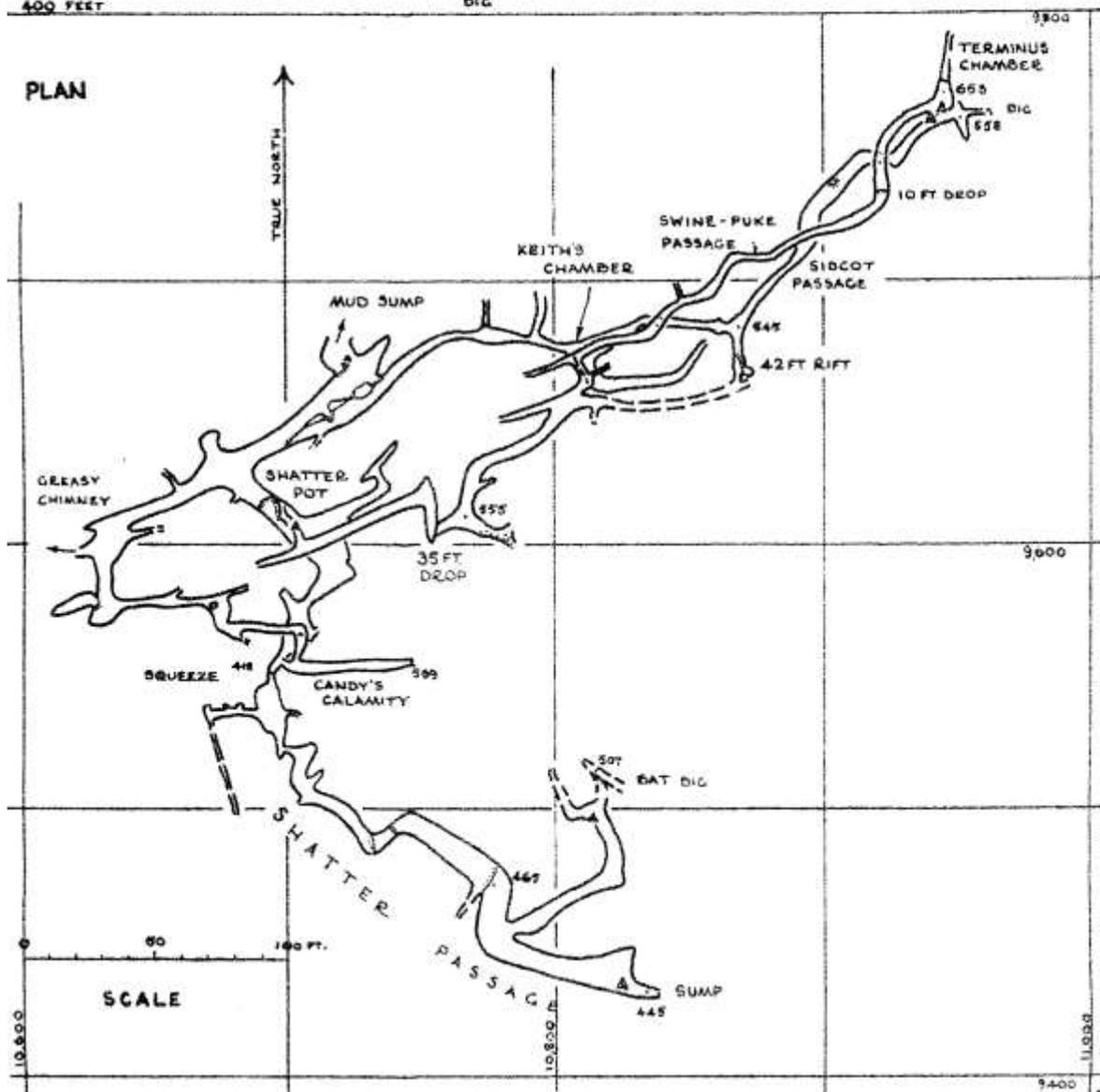
SWILDON'S VALLEY FLOOR.

HALF SCALE OF PLAN

700



PLAN



4. The Priddy Green Dig

The final choke in this swallet, 92ft. below the entrance and about 180ft. above the highest point reached by climbing Cowsh Aven, is an unstable mass of boulders. When one is removed others fall from an apparently inexhaustible supply, so that digging is practically impossible.

Higher up in the swallet a side passage was opened last year that may offer an alternative route past the choke. It is a crawl leading after a few feet into a blind aven 30ft. high. The floor is a mass of boulders that have fallen out of the aven, and a survey made on July 27th 1963 shows that the lowest point is 38ft. above and 20ft. horizontally from the terminal boulder choke. It is quite likely that a steep boulder-filled passage connects the two, and if the connection were proved (shouting through would probably do it) the terminal choke could be effectively attacked from above. The passage would be dry, and a further advantage would be that much of the rock removed could be dumped in the old route down. If and when interest in the Priddy Green dig revives this possibility should be tested.

5. Intriguing noises in Vicarage Passage

On August 10th 1963, the stream bed was dry at the entrance of Swildon's, and beyond Sump One there was much less water moving than usual. A large party of Wessex and M.N.R.C. members went to view the extension of Vicarage Passage, opened by M.N.R.C. on the previous Sunday.

At Vicarage Pot I stayed behind to drill two holes and cement in two stout iron spikes, which have (I hope) made the far side of the Pot climbable without a ladder. Then I went on to join the others and, taking a breather, noticed in the silence the faint sound of a large stream. It proved to come from an impassable crack in the north wall of the passage about 150ft. beyond the Pot. The same sound was heard, at about the same time, by Bob Craig and Nick Hart at the choked end of a narrow descending tunnel leading off to the northwest (?) from the new extension. We agreed that the noise was like that of the main stream at Creep Two, but this is 250ft. away and an audible link is most improbable. It is also curious that the stream should first be heard under low water conditions. It's just another Swildon's conundrum. The darn place never lets up.

MENDIP NOTES

Cheramodytes

Llethrid Swallet

A 20 year old youth, Howard Butler, fell and broke his thigh in this cave on Sunday afternoon, February 9th, and hurt his chest as well. It was not until 25 hours later, at 5.30 p.m. on the 10th, that we got him out. This, as Polonius said, is too long. Part of the delay was legitimate. He was in bad shape from shock and the cave doctors of South Wales did a good job in getting him right by means of a plasma transfusion and putting his leg in plaster. But rightly or wrongly it was considered that the entrance passages were too constricted to get him out and wrongly the National Coal Board personnel were put in charge of the operation of widening it. There is no doubt that the only people who should be in control of cave rescue are the Police and the Cave Rescue Organisation. Coal miners do not understand caves or cavers. One of them at Llethrid is reported to have said that it was the most dangerous place he had seen and that people who went exploring it wanted their heads looking into. Unfortunately people believe this kind of talk and it gets us a bad name. The entrance passages are in fact a boulder ruckle with a stream, rather like the boulder chokes in Stoke Lane II. Your scribe had never seen this ruckle before the miners got to work on it. They made a good job of straightening out the route, so good in fact that, when they had finished, it only took 2 or 3 hours to get the lad out, and we had no trouble. But it occasioned a delay of 12 hours. Your scribe can't help feeling that, if they had started getting him out at 3 a.m. on Monday, they would have been out by dawn. The South Wales cavers have good technique and know what they are doing.

Seeing your scribe putting on his wet suit, that cheerful extrovert, Noel Dilly, said to him, "Cheramodytes, I always knew the one thing you wanted to do was to sit in a river with a cold waterfall running down your neck". Your scribe, taking this as a joke, replied that that was one of his most cherished ambitions and how did he know? "Good", said Noel straight, "You're to be one of the four water babies who will lie in the stream, while the subject is being carried over your faces." And so it was.

Diving in Wookey Hole

On the 15th February the C.D.G. were busy. Steve Wynne-Roberts and Michael Thompson were joined by Ken Pearce (of Gouffre Berger and all that). They went to the 9th Chamber, where Pearce stayed, as he only had 90 ats. of air left. The other two went on to the 13th Chamber, where they surfaced and explored the air-space so dramatically discovered by Bob Davies in 1955. This passage is tubular and leads to the surface of the 12th Chamber, which is not really negotiable, as there are too many boulders. It does not lead to an extensive cave system. Here they laid a wire and took it back to the 9th Chamber. All the old wires had become buried in mud and were difficult to find, some were broken. At one point Mike, who was leading, got hold of the line being laid by Steve, who was following, and followed that. Progress was circular. Your scribe

attended the operation on the 29th-February. More than anything he was struck by the technical revolution which has taken place since the days of Bob Davies. Gone are the Aflos and Oxygen sets, the bottom walking, log keeping and controller. Most of them use air, some mixture. Several cavers are just beginning their training.

“On Finding New Cave Passages”

Oliver Lloyd's first joke, when talking to the M.N.R.C. on this topic on the 21st March, fell flat. People who were new to caving, he said, did not expect to begin by finding new cave passages, but it came sooner or later, particularly in relatively unexplored caves, such as — St. Cuthbert's. There was dead silence. The remark was too true to be funny. Last week and the week before saw a major advance into a high level system in that cave, between Pillar Chamber and Annex Chamber. It needed no digging; it was wide open.

It all began soon after Christmas, 1963, when Nick Hart, Bob Gannicott and Phil Davies maypoled their way into a hole above the tip of Kanchenjunga. If they had had Steve Wynne-Roberts with them they wouldn't have needed the maypole. He just walked straight in. They found about 400ft. of passage communicating with the bits above Annex Chamber which John Cornwell found in November 1962.

On the 7th March Phil Davies returned with Phil Romford and John Cornwell and explored from the new entrance into a beautifully decorated trench in the bedding, with fine helictites. It has been called Erratic Passage. A survey and much more exploration has been done by Noel McSharry, who showed me round the new system on the 22nd March. In plan it looks like a Lobster. Erratic Passage is its body. The approach passages are its right and hind legs; its left legs and claws go up a considerable distance to a boulder ruckle on a level with the Wire Rift, where exploration is still going on. At the Lobster's head is Beehive Chamber, and another very well decorated grotto at the upper end of Erratic Passage.

Cow Hole

I am told that this collector's piece looks much the same, only cleaner. This is intended to mean that no new areas of instability have been noticed in the boulder ruckles. Fifteen parties have visited it since it was opened at Whitsun, 1963. Tim Reynolds and Phil Davies hold keys.

Premises on Mendip

The M.C.G. are having to leave Charterhouse Mineries, as it has changed hands and the new owner wants an exorbitant rent. They will be neighbours of the Axbridge C.G. at the Stirrup Cup, Nordrach-on-Mendip, where they are renting a plot of land upon which they mean to construct a caving hut. The M.N.R.C. plan to get premises near Green Ore.

We need not be over-sorry that the opportunity of moving the Wessex H.Q. from Hillgrove into a house near Haydon Drove has slipped past. True, the Wessex needs to move into a larger place, but the proposed house was a mile and a half in the wrong direction, away from the caving area and the Hunter's Lodge. It has been put to me that this would mean nothing to a club whose members are now mostly motorized, but it does affect our younger members. The motorized members do not have to spend Saturday night on Mendip, if they want two days caving, but the non-motorized ones are obliged to. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get Priddy Vicarage?

Manners

One day two of our chaps were talking to Mr. Maine outside of his back door, when a caver from down the road, who had just come out of Swildon's came up and said to Mr. Maine, "Can I have a towel? I've forgotten mine." The brusque address might have provoked a lesser man to anger. Mr. Maine went and fetched a towel. But our two chaps got hold of the caver afterwards and told him one or two things.

15 YEARS AGO

"Taperer"

Circular No. 15 (January 1949) reported the discovery of Dallimore's Cave, in October 1948, in a shakehole about 50 yards to the west of the Bristol-Wells road in the main Hillgrove depression, and described its chief interest as the tightness and discomfort of its 150ft. of passage. It was opened after only four weekends' work and the shaft was described as clean and self-supporting.

At this time (1949) the Club had a professional dowser as a member, George Applegate, and on more than one occasion members accompanied him on a tramp across Mendip, discovering (optimistically) many hidden streams (? caves). In a lecture to members he described how after years of research and practice, he can estimate not only the position of moving underground water, but can also estimate depth and flow with a high measure of success.

In a letter to the Secretary Richard Kenney, serving in Malaya, described all Malayan caves as dangerous owing to snakes, tigers, poisonous bats and Communists, the latter being by far the worst!

Taperer's handwriting has not improved, with the result that "Lawder" was credited with digging the Hillgrove swallet shaft in Journal No. 92. With apologies to the Commander for stripping him of this credit so soon, Lawder should have read "Lander".

SAFETY IN POTHOLING

Anne Court

This Conference, held in Leeds on Tuesday 17th March 1964, was arranged by the Central Council for Physical Recreation, Yorkshire Region, in co-operation with a Committee representing local Potholing interests.

The Conference was preceded by coffee, which gave participants an opportunity to inspect the stands of various Potholing Clubs and trade exhibitors. The former included displays by the Cave Rescue Organisation, Dewsbury Technical School, and Leeds University Union Speleological Society, all of which showed the usual surveys and photographs. The latter included the Dalesman Publishing Company, who were the main financial backers of the Conference; Horlicks Ltd., who displayed their concentrated foodstuffs for use in cave emergencies; Leeds Camping Centre who had an impressive array of camping equipment; and A.M.S. Marine Supplies who were exhibiting diving equipment suitable for use in Caves.

The Conference was officially opened by the Chairman, Mr. L. Morant, who said he was sure that it would prove of great benefit, not only to the cavers but also to the representatives of the many educational bodies who were present. He also introduced the first two speakers, Dr. J.O. Myers, Chairman of the Cave Rescue Organisation, and Mr. D. Robinson, Leader of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Team and co-author of a new book "Caving and Potholing" which just happened to be on sale at the Conference. These two gentlemen both gave lectures, which were illustrated by excellent colour slides, on "An Introduction to Potholing".

After lunch Mr. D. Robinson continued with a lecture entitled "Safety in Potholing" and showed and explained colour slides of his personal equipment, most of which was also on display. The item which created most interest was a short length of rubber tubing which, he explained, was a personal refinement and could be used for (a) drinking out of small pools and crevices, and (b) filling carbide lamps. He also described a metal stemple which had been specially developed for cave rescue work. It was based on a screw type car jack principle, with extension pieces, so that it could be wedged in a rift of any width up to 4 ft.

This was followed by three ten-minute lectures under the main heading of "Some Safety Factors". The first was by Mr. A. de Jong of Horlicks Ltd. Of special interest was a 24 hour pack consisting of an oatmeal block, 2 packets of Spangles and 2 packets of glucose tablets, all fitting into a tin the size of a 4 oz. tobacco tin. It was claimed that these rations, together with 1½ pints of water, would last a man for 24 hours. The second lecture, by Mr. H. Smith, was a rather noncommittal account of "Some Legal Considerations in Introducing Schools and Youth Groups to Potholing". The final lecture in this series, "Join a Club", was given by Mr. T. Sykes, Hon. Sec. of the Council of Northern Caving Clubs.

After tea there was a discussion by a panel of "leading Potholing experts", under the heading of "The Future Development of Caving", during which it transpired that Mr. Sykes wanted to form a National Association of Caving Clubs for the purpose of fighting the access orders which were

pending on some northern caving areas. However, this did not meet with much support. Both the panel and the representatives of the various educational bodies were concerned with the problem of training young people into the art of good Potholing. It would seem that, in this area, if only half of one per cent of the youth wanted to go caving this would amount to 10,000 new cavers per year. A formidable problem. The discussion was ended without any firm conclusions being drawn.

The Conference terminated with the film "Cave Rescue" made by the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association. This is a most interesting film which may be hired by any interested bodies for a small fee.

In conclusion, the Conference was very well arranged and the Organising Committee had obviously spent a great deal of time and trouble in planning it. Unfortunately it was held mid-week and at short notice so that many people who would normally have attended were unable to do so. The Cricket Ground, Headingley, was an excellent Conference centre and we were very well catered for, despite the adverse weather conditions. The Conference was more of a social occasion, rather like a caving club slide show, and did not really reach any definite conclusions as was hoped.

AND SO HORLICKS EVERY DAY

Users' Comments on the Horlicks M.R.O. Packs.

1. T.E .Reynolds writes:-

On Friday, September 27th, Phil Davies, Nick Hart and the writer set off to dig at the Second Boulder Choke at the end of the Black Hole Series in Swildons Hole. For this we considered it necessary to stay down for a maximum period of 36 hours. In order to do this we took down one sleeping bag, dry clothes and food. We took it in turns to sleep. For food we took down six blocks of Kendal Mint Cake, three Horlicks M.R.O./60/3 packs, coffee and powdered soup. For cooking we had some solid fuel burners.

No difficulty was experienced in eating (or drinking) the coffee and the soup. However, owing to a leaky polythene bag, the Kendal Mint Cake was Kendal Mint Sludge by the time we reached our camp site, which was just after the First Boulder Choke.

All the Horlicks packs were got down in good condition. These packs contain:- 1 oatmeal block, 2 packets Horlicks tablets, 2 packets Enerzade glucose tablets, 1 block rum flavoured fudge, 3 milk chocolate bars, 4 expedition biscuits, 1 block cheddar cheese, 1 HF 66 meat and vegetable bar with potatoes. There were also some sundry containers. The concentrated blocks are cooked by crumbling into water and boiling, but they can be eaten uncooked.

For our first main meal we had the HF 66 bar. Between three this meant that we each had about 5 cu. ins. of brown 'stuff' to eat. However, this was so concentrated that eating it was an effort after the first few mouthfuls; probably if it had been mixed with a little more water when cooking it would have slid down easier. This block crumbled relatively easily. For occasional refreshment we had the glucose and Horlicks tablets. These were refreshing but the latter were wrapped in such an involved way that it took a good five minutes to open them. On balance a lot of wrapping is probably a good thing, but it is rather disheartening if you are not prepared for it. The expedition biscuits and Cheddar cheese were disappointing. They were very dry and had the same consistency as compressed paper. However, they were edible. The last cooked meal we had was the oatmeal block 'crumbled' into water and boiled up as porridge. The oatmeal block proved a job to crumble. After nearly buckling a knife we found that the best method was to put it into one of the spare food containers and pound it with a rock. This crumbled the block and also woke up Nick Hart, who was having his turn at sleeping, so saving us a lot of trouble. The porridge, when it finally came, was good but a bit lumpy due to uncrumbled bits of oatmeal. However, the lumps tasted nicer than the rest of the porridge so it was no drawbacks. The rum flavoured fudge we ate uncooked on the way out just after we had come through Sump 1 It was very rich and a job to eat at one sitting. However, when we

had forced it down we felt fitter, though this might have been due to the thought of returning to the surface.

Owing to bang fumes, cold, etc., we only spent 28 hours underground, about 21 of them at the dig. The main trouble was cold while waiting for the bang fumes to clear. Also we did not arrange the sleeping very well; we had only about 7 hours sleep each and 14 hours digging so were a bit tired at the end. Probably a party of 4 with 2 sleeping bags would have been better. For the whole trip we used nearly all of one pack, the only item which was not eaten being the milk chocolate bars (they later proved to be normal Cadbury's Milk Chocolate Bars as can be purchased in any shop). Admittedly this was supplemented by soup, coffee and Kendal Mint Cake (or Sludge) but it showed that the pack contained adequate nourishment for the trip; at no point were we hungry. But it was quite often difficult to open the laminated foil in which the contents of the pack are individually wrapped. A carbide lamp does the job quite well, and also makes a horrible smell. But these packs are designed for use in emergency when it is quite likely that the users would be without light and have to eat the contents uncooked. It would be very difficult for a tired caver to open the present wrapping design in the dark with his bare hands. Obviously the strength of the wrapping cannot be reduced, but it might be an idea to have either a 'rip strip' in the foil, or to have included in the pack a knife or something similar to open the wrapping. However, the pack fulfilled its main purpose since we were well fed. So for long trips of this nature a Horlicks pack appears to be the 'thing'. It is also an idea to supplement it with coffee and soup to add variety. Perhaps the expedition biscuits and cheese could be soaked in soup to improve their taste.

2. R. Pyke writes:-

Four of us carried 2 Horlicks Ration Packs as emergency supply during a climbing holiday in the Pyrenees. The emergency that none of us had seriously envisaged in fact arose, and we were forced to bivouac in a pine-wood and cook the contents of the packs on a wood fire.

In view of the size of the packs we were at first resigned to the prospect of being hungry all night, as nothing but a little chocolate had been eaten during the preceding 14 hours. However, we found both evening meal and breakfast to be entirely adequate in quantity, and one usually rapacious member of the party was even beaten by his share of potato. The rum fudge was eaten with the coffee and prevented that rather "incomplete" feeling, common in camping meals. We were able to do a full day's climbing on the following day without undue discomfort.

The only possible criticism that could be levelled against the quality of the contents was the rather rock-like consistency of the porridge block. It required two strong men with large rocks to smash it up properly! To have crumbled it with the fingers would have

taken a long time. Anyway, some of us reckoned that the lumps tasted even better than the porridge!

We tried to light the fire with the wrappings of the pack, as recommended, but found them rather unflammable. The inclusion in the pack of some highly combustible material (? a small firelighter) would have been welcome.

3. C. Mulvey reports:-

We used one of the Horlicks Ration Packs in a series of fairly long trips, rather than a single long stay. Our comments are as follows:-

1) For what the packs contain the price is prohibitive, as far as the normal cavers' everyday needs are concerned. Since the pack was evolved for cave rescue work and for use in food dumps or expeditions, and since in these situations an "organisation" is paying for it, there may be a demand. Given a sale only to "ordinary" cavers, the packs may follow in the foot-steps of Enerzades - to failure.

2) If a party were given a ration pack and nothing else, they might well find themselves in the position of having a tin without a tin-opener. The outer packing can be removed easily enough, but when it comes to opening the laminated foil packs they resist tearing and teeth, but will succumb to flame, when, after being allowed to "blister" for a few seconds, they can be easily opened. If you happen to be using electric lights this reduces you to the state of having your tin-opener inside one of the tins, since the only matches they provide are inside one of the said laminated packs. A suitable "ripper" provided with the pack might be helpful. While on the subject of matches, I noted that there would be room in the pack to provide a decent box rather than a booklet.

3) The polythene bag and closure was useful.

4) The state of preservation of the chocolate was not too good.

5) As far as the nutritional value of the contents was concerned, we are all still alive and there seem to be no complaints. The fudge and the meat-block both went down very well.

6) It seems a pity that Enerzades are no longer available, since they were the cheapest source of tablet glucose I have found. It struck me while I was using the packs that here was something that I will never see again - too pricey and too bulky for normal use. The need is more for the Outward Bound trekking ration type of thing, with something to provide energy and stave off thirst, and something to fill you, such as oatmeal or some similar food.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Dear Sir,

I feel that a few things are worth saying, in conclusion I hope, about the now celebrated ladder affair in Swildon's. The mistake at the forty was simply made. The string was tied near to the top of the ladder instead of at the bottom and was, in consequence, missed - a genuine mistake. I can't agree with the writer of the article in the last Journal, however, when he said "Well, perhaps they were too tired to put the ladders back, but perhaps they might have tried." After all, we were not to know that the cavers still down were good enough to climb the twenty - we did not even know they were members of Wessex - for, remember, we saw no string on the ladder. It was because no two of us were prepared to go over the forty again (we were fairly exhausted) that we did not return to the cave. Under those circumstances that was the right decision. Better to call the M.R.O., we thought, than to risk a real accident. Of course we didn't know it was a police number, or we would have reconsidered. But then, again, what can be done in such a situation?

The net result of the incident should be some system, at least within Wessex, of finding out if anyone is still down in Lower Swildons. I have already heard the suggestion of a series of metal tags to be put on the forty foot ladder. There may, however, be several ladders used in one day, in which case a mistake might occur again. The answer would appear to be the fixing of a small bar (or rawlplug with wire) on which everyone hangs a tag, even if they take their own ladder. The tags might be stored in the barn at Manor Farm - together with an explanatory notice, of course.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Masters

P.S. We forgive you."

CAVES OF MENDIP 3RD EDITION

Nick Barrington - having rejoined Wessex - is already asking for YOUR co-operation. He has been asked to produce a third edition of "Caves of Mendip" and he wants amendments and additions - he hopes to be able to make it a larger edition to bring in more "promising digs etc."

He may be contacted at:-

The Oak House ("The Restaurant with You in View"), The Square, Axbridge.
Phone: Axbridge 444.

where I have no doubt he will be glad to see any member.....with money!

SHOW CAVES OF GREAT BRITAIN

A.D. Oldham & A. Court

These caves are listed first in alphabetical order of counties and second in alphabetical order of cave names.

This article introduces a complex terminological problem as to the definition of a "Show Cave". Walking where angels fear to tread we make the following suggestions as to what constitutes a Show Cave.

- 1) Guides are provided (in fact in many caves parties are not permitted without a guide).
- 2) An entrance fee is charged.

As this definition is too vague, because caves like St. Cuthberts Swallet, Mendip, or Reeds Cave, Devon, and O.F.D., South Wales, can also be included, therefore more "rules" are needed:-

- 3) Lights are provided, either candles, or mains electricity etc.
- 4) Gravel or concrete paths are provided, with steps and possibly hand rails; and, lastly,
- 5) (Probably the most important criterion) The Public are invited to enter and inspect.

All Show Caves will conform to one or more of the above "Rules", but not necessarily to all of them. We hope that the "hard" cavers will excuse such seemingly obvious hints such as the need for lights and, in some cases, rubber boots, as this paper is also meant for the tourists and armchair cavers.

In most caves a powerful electric torch with a spot beam is useful for inspecting the unlit sides and roof passages of the cave, when the guide is not looking. Again, in most caves, old clothes or perhaps hiking clothes (anorak, etc.) should be worn. Very few Show Caves are dry underfoot, and stout shoes or boots for both sexes are advised.

Abbreviations and Comments

After the name of each cave, the parish or district is mentioned. The Owner, Manager or person in charge of the caves, together with their name and address and telephone number where appropriate. This will be found most useful in the winter season to ascertain whether or not the cave is open.

NGR = National Grid Reference.

Length: Two lengths are given; the first is the length of the Show or public portion and the second the total length of all explored passage.

Ad = Admission. A = Adults. Ch = Children.

C.P. = Car Park, followed by relevant details, e.g. 1/- or none.

Time: This is the average duration of a trip. In summer with a lot of visitors the practice is to take as many people around the cave in as short a time as possible, whilst in winter it is the opposite, long and leisurely trips being the order of the day. If one must visit Show Caves in the summer, then choose a Saturday because, surprisingly enough, it is a very slack day.

References: A very tricky point here, e.g. for Wookey Hole one could give 100 references or over, so therefore we have limited it to ONE reference per cave!

Finally, getting on to the caves, we would like to hope that the reader will have as much pleasure in reading and visiting these caves as we had inspecting and recording all the details about them.

Any additions, corrections, etc., would be most welcome.

BRECONSHIRE

Dan yr Ogof - Glyn Tawe.

Owner: Messrs. Morgan, Dan yr Ogof Farm, Glyn Tawe.

NGR: SN 838.160

Length: ¼ mile (1 mile)

On west side of the A 4067, Ystradgynlais to Senny Bridge road. This cave was opened as a Show Cave at the beginning of the war, but was subsequently closed due to legal difficulties. It is hoped, however, that it will be opened again in the near future. The cave is fitted out with concrete paths and electric lights, and contains many beautiful formations. The show cave occupies a high level passage, whilst the Afon Llynfell flows through the lower series.

Ref: Dan yr Ogof Cave by Llew Morgan.

Porth yr Ogof Cave - Ystradfellte. (Also known as White Horse Cave)

NGR: SN 928.124

Length: 100 yds. (¼ mile)

This cave is situated near the village of Ystradfellte, on the normally dry bed of the River Mellte. Cars may be parked on the side of the road above the cave and an electric torch and a strong pair of boots will be found useful. By descending a rough footpath one arrives at the cave entrance, an impressive gorge 60ft. deep with a low, wide arch at the bottom. After entering the cave and keeping to the left hand side of the main passage, one soon reaches a wide, deep pool of water, and when one's eyes have become accustomed to the light one can see the White Horse formation on the opposite side of the pool. This is, in fact, a calcite vein in the rock. The visitor can explore further side passages, but this is not without a certain

amount of danger. Further down the valley the resurgence may be viewed. The cave is very popular with tourists, especially on Bank Holiday weekends, when visitors come from nearby towns.

Ad. Free, permission not necessary.

Refs North, F.J. 1949. The River Scenery at the Head of the Vale of Neath. Publ. Cardiff Museum.

BRISTOL

Giants Cave, Clifton.

NGR: ST 5656.7326

Length: 200ft. (-)

Near Clifton Suspension Bridge, entrance in "The Observatory". A descending mined passage with steps leads to a natural chamber which opens out into the face of the Avon Gorge, 250ft. above the river. The cave has a long history, the earliest mention being A.D. 305 when it was used as a chapel. Visitors are admitted without a guide.

Ad. A. 6d. Ch. 3d. C.P. None. Time 15 min.

Ref: Oldham, A.D., 1962. Caves and Mines of the Bristol District Pt. 2.

Journal of the Wessex Cave Club Vol. 7 No 84 p. 33.

Redcliffe Caves

Owners: Bristol Corporation (City Engineers Dept.)

NGR: ST 5894.7233

Length: 1,000ft. approx. (¼ mile)

The entrance to these caves is situated behind the warehouses on the floating harbour. The caves consist of man-made passages excavated without any order or symmetry. They have a practically constant floor level and roof height with irregularly spaced and undercut pillars, which give the impression of a complex maze. The history of these caves is rather vague. Legend has it that the caves were either formed by removing sandstone for use in the Bristol Glass Industry, or that the sandstone was used as ballast for ships and the caves used as prisons for slaves and prisoners of war.

Ad. 1/- per head. Entrance by special arrangement only.

C.P. Free on Quayside. Time: 30 min.

Ref: Oldham, A.D., 1963. Caves and Mines of the Bristol District Pt. 3.

Journal of the Wessex Cave Club Vol. 7 No. 92 p. 280.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Hell Fire Caves, West Wycombe.

Owners Hon. Francis Dashwood.

NGR: SU 825.958

Length: ¼ mile (?)

These caves, or, to be more precise, Chalk Mines, are situated halfway up West Wycombe Hill, which is surmounted by a church with a Golden Ball on its tower. This is a useful landmark for locating the caves. These Caves were greatly extended from 1748-52 by Sir Francis Dashwood to provide work for the unemployed villagers, and were subsequently used by the Hell Fire Club, or, as it was actually called, The Monks of Medmenham. Many prominent politicians were members of this Club, whose sole aim appeared to be to promote drunkenness and promiscuity, in sessions attended by members of both sexes which lasted for several days at a time. Today the caves are illuminated by electric lights and a recorded commentary is broadcast at different points of the caves, thereby disposing of guides. The supposed scenes are re-enacted by life-sized wax figures, appropriately dressed in the costume of the time, to the accompaniment of recorded conversations. At one point, in the Banqueting Hall, Sir Francis Dashwood, as the Abbott, is standing giving a toast to the devil. At the mention of the name of the subterranean Deity there is a clash of thunder and a flash of light. Just before the end of the cave is the subterranean River Styx, where cavers have scaled the iron bars to explore this natural stream. The Show Cave terminates in The Inner Temple, and one can only guess at what went on there.

Ad. A. 3/- Ch. 1/6. Time: ½ hour. Open throughout summer; weekends only in winter. C.P. free at bottom of hill, or in off season at cave mouth, halfway up hill.

Ref: Dashwood, Francis. Hell Fire Caves. On sale at cave entrance 2/6d.

DERBYSHIRE

Blue John Mine - Castleton.

Prop: A. Ollerenshaw, Blue John Caverns, Castleton, via Sheffield.

NGR: SK 132.832.

Length: ¼ mile approx. (½ mile approx.)

One mile west of Castleton south side of the A 65 road to Mam Tor. This cave is unusually deep for a show cave (300') and descends at a steep angle with many steps, which are not appreciated until the return journey to the surface. One of the most striking features of the cave is the 90ft. shaft, which was the original entrance for miners when the mine was being worked for Blue John. The cave contains many high chambers including Crystallised Cavern, Stalactite Cavern and Lord Mulgrave's Dining Room, the latter being 140ft. high and 30ft. in diameter. A fine Blue John vein in its natural surroundings may be viewed in this chamber. A few yards further on is Variegated Cavern, the termination of the Show Cave. This chamber is over 200ft. high and so named because of the variegated patches of minerals

coating the walls. The cave was used for storing Radium during the 2nd World War.

Ad. A 2/- Ch. 1/- Min. charge 5/- per party (therefore make sure that you have at least 3 persons in the party). C.P. free, lay-by at side of road. Time: 45 Min. Open all year round.
Ref: Ollerenshaw A.E. Blue John Caverns and Blue John Mines.
On sale at cave entrance 2/6.

Cumberland Cavern - Matlock Bath.

Curator: V.R. Swain, Esq., The Bungalow, Via Gellia, Bonsall, Nr. Matlock.
NGR: SK 292.577
Length: ¼ mile.

Proceed up Clifton Road, S.W. of Holy Trinity Church, then 150 yards up footpath. The first part of the Cavern is through a mined level with steps leading to the lower workings. The Cavern is called "Royal" Cumberland Cavern after the visit of Princess Victoria in 1832.

Ad. A. 2/6d. C.P. None. Time: 30 mins.
Open Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday or by special arrangement.

Fern and Roman Caves - Matlock Bath

Sec: Mr. F. Burbing, Matlock & High Tor Recreation Grounds Co. Ltd., High Tor Office, The Dale, Matlock. Tel. Matlock 44.
NGR: SK 298.588

These caves are on the summit of High Tor and consist of a series of roofless fissures, for which no lights are needed.

Ad. to grounds only, cave free, A. 6d. Ch. 3d. C.P. None. Time: 15 mins. Open all year round.

Great Masson Mine - Matlock Bath

Sec: Mr. E.F. Aspey, Heights of Abraham (Matlock Bath) Ltd., Matlock Bath.
NGR: SK 292.586
Length: 400 yards (1 mile)

This is an old lead mine which is situated on the summit of the Heights of Abraham (These are private grounds and are reached by ascending Holme Road from the A6 Trunk Road). Hurricane Lamps and candles are carried, and one gets "all the thrills of an underground exploration in complete safety with experienced guides".

Ad. To Grounds A. 6d. Ch. 3d. Extra to Mine A. 1/- Ch. 6d. Times 30 mins. Open summer months only 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Ref: Porteous C. 1950. Caves and Caverns of Peakland, p. 71.

High Tor Grotto - Matlock Bath

NGR: SK 296.588

Length: 300 ft. (-ft.)

On East side of River Derwent at foot of High Tor, in Dye Works. The entrance is an artificial arch, which leads to a passage containing many calcite crystals, and terminates in a sump. Lights are needed.

Ad. Free. Apply to management of Dye Works for permission. No Guides. Time: 20 min.

Ref: Thornber et al. 1953. Britain Underground p. 169.

Peak Cavern - Castleton. Also known as Devils Arse and Devils Hole (re. ref. below)

Custodian: Mr. E. Savage, Peak Cavern House, Castleton, via Sheffield. Tel. Hope 285.

Owner: Duchy of Lancaster.

NGR: SK 149.825

Length: ½ mile (1½ miles)

The large entrance at the foot of the cliff behind Castleton leads to a huge chamber 340ft. long and 100ft. wide and 60ft. high, with the remains of the old rope making industry on display. A low passage leads to the Great Chamber 200ft, across and over 100ft. high. Further on is Roger Rains House, so called because of a continuous spray of water from the roof. A descent leads to Half-way House, the limit of a trip in wet weather. The subterranean River Styx is followed for some distance beneath five natural arches, to the terminal chamber of the Show Cave.

Ad. A. 1/6d. Ch. 1/- C.P, 1/- (look out for free Corporation Car Park) Times 45-60 min. Open all year round, can be closed by flooding.

Ref: Camdens Britannia p. 557 1610 edition trans. into English by Philomen Holland.

Poole's Cavern - Buxton

Prop: Mr. T.L. Alcock, Poole's Cavern, Green Lane, Buxton. Tel: 1576.

NGR: SK 050.726

Length: 600 yards (800 yards)

On south side of Buxton through Broad Walk, Temple Road, to Green Lane. A fine archaeological cave containing Romano-British remains and many interesting formations, including the unique "poached eggs". The cave is illuminated by incandescent gas. The museum, where the party forms, contains, besides relics from the cave, a vast collection of Victorian Bric-a-Brac from Breeches Bibles to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and is something you cannot afford to miss.

Ad. A. 1/6d. Ch. 9d. C.P. None. Time: 30mins. Open: Summer months 10 a.m. to dusk, and at other times by appointment.

Ref: Poole's Cavern, Buxton, on sale at cave entrance 1/6d.

Rutland Cavern - Matlock Bath (Also known as Nestor or Nestes Mine)

NGR: SK 293.586

Length: 500ft. (700ft.)

Situated half way up Heights of Abraham, this cave consists of a mined passage 240 ft. long, which leads to a natural chamber 120ft. high and 100ft. long. The end of this chamber branches into two smaller chambers, containing fluospar, calcite, galena and some fossils. The mine is reputed to have been worked by the Romans.

Ad. A. 1/- Ch. 6d. Time: 26 mins. See Great Masson Mine *ibid.* for references and opening hours.

Speedwell Cavern - Castleton

Prop: Messrs. R.J. & D. Harrison, Speedwell Cavern, Castleton, via Sheffield.

Tel: Hope 512.

NGR: SK 139.828.

Length: 1,500ft. (1½ miles)

At the bottom of Winnats Pass, just west of Castleton. Entrance descent of 80 ft. down 104 steps leads to the subterranean canal which stretches the length of the Show Cave. This cave is unique as it is the only one in England through which visitors are conducted by boat. 20 seater boats propelled by the guide pushing on the roof of the tunnel soon carry the visitors to the Chamber known as The Bottomless Pit, where one can stand on a concrete platform and, in comfort, inspect a waterfall descending over 70ft., and the roof rising to an estimated height of 300 ft.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/- C.P. Free. Time: ½ hour. Open all year round from 10 a.m. onwards.

Ref: Ford, Trevor D., *The Story of Speedwell Cavern*, on sale at cave entrance 2/6d.

Treak Cliff Cavern - Castleton

Manager: Mr. H. Harrison, Treak Cliff, Castleton, via Sheffield.

NGR: SK 135.832

Length: 500 ft. (700 ft.)

Half a mile west of Castleton, on the west side and 125 ft. above the A 65 road to Mam Tor. A very low artificial tunnel leads to the first chamber with veins of Blue John Spar. A steep ascent of 60ft. leads to the Witches Cave and more veins of Blue John are on show. A short descent leads one to the only natural part of the cave, discovered in 1926 and consisting of four main Caverns: Alladins Cave, Fairy Cave, Dream Cave and Dome of St. Pauls. These chambers are profusely decorated with formations and are the highlight of the cave. Bowls of Blue John have been placed behind the lights to illustrate the two beds of Blue John which are found in this mine. Exit is made by a second entrance, 65ft. above the first.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/- C.P. Free, Time: 20 mins. Open all year round.

Ref: *The Story of Treak Cliff Cavern* by T.D. Ford, on sale at entrance 2/6d.

DEVONSHIRE

Kents Cavern - Ilsham Road, Wellswood, Torquay. Tel: Torquay 4059

NGR: SX 935.642

Length: ¼ mile (989 yards)

Nos. 55 & 111 buses from the Strand to Wellswood, then 5 min, walk, down Ilsham Road. Well signposted.

A circular tour, in one entrance and out via the gift shop, encounters some very pretty formations. One is shown the remains of a cave bear's skull still embedded in the roof. Many prehistoric animals remains were found during the 19th century and can be viewed in Torquay Natural History Museum (Torwood Street).

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/-. C.P. Free. Time: 20 mins. Open all year round (except Christmas day) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and to 8 p.m. in summer.

Ref: Pemberton, Clive, 1950. The Origin and Story of Kents Cavern.

On sale at cave entrance 1/6d.

Philips Cavern - Mount Pleasant Road, Brixham. (Also known as Brixham Bone Cavern and Windmill Hill Cave)

NGR: SX 925.560

Length: 120 feet approx. (320 ft. approx.)

At the top of Windmill Hill, in the basement of a house. The house and hoardings can be seen from the harbour. This is a small cave containing the bones of many extinct animals, although there is little to see now. Visitors are permitted without a guide.

Ad. A. 1/6d. Ch. 9d. C.P. None. Time: 5 mins. Open summer season only.

Ref: Philosophical Transactions London, No. 163 (1875) p. 483.

Watermouth Caves - Watermouth, N. Devon

NGR: SS 555.481

These caves are situated on the north of the A 399 Ilfracombe to Combe Martin Road, in the grounds of a private estate. There are three short sea caves with quite imposing entrances. For a small fee the public are invited to inspect and picnic in these caves or on the beach.

Ad. A. 6d. Ch. 3d. Open all year round.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Bruces Cave

NGR: NY 265.705

Four miles north of the border, just west of the A 74 Carlisle to Abbington Road, at Kirkpatrick Fleming. The route to the cave is well signposted. The cave consists of a small chamber 12 ft. in diameter in which Robert the Bruce is reputed to have hidden from the English. The cave is in a red sandstone cliff about 30 ft. above the river Kirtle Water and until 1927 could only be reached by being lowered on a rope over the overhang and swinging to the cave. Because of the many accidents the council decided to build the present footpath so that the cave may be inspected in comfort. A rather extortionate charge, which includes viewing the relics in the nearby house, is made for admission, which does not really justify the visit.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/- C.P. Free. Time: ½ min.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Royston Cave - Royston

Owner: Council are negotiating purchase (Sept. 1963)

NGR: TL 356.410

The cave is situated beneath a greengrocers shop in the High Street, and consists of a bell shaped chamber 26 ft. high, and 17 ft. in diameter, the sides of which are covered with sculptures of uncertain antiquity, although they could be at least 800 years old. The coffee bar opposite, the "El Grotto", is probably more interesting, with its stone axe door handles, and cave-like decor.

Ad. A. 1/- Ch. 6d. Time: 10 mins. Open all year round.

Ref: Beldam, J. 1884. Royston Gave, 3rd Edition, Pub. John Warren, Royston,

KENT

Chislehurst Cave - Chislehurst

NGR: TQ 433.695

Length: 1 mile (22 miles*)

Near Chislehurst Station (B.R. Southern Region), with signposts to cave.

This is a chalk mine of uncertain antiquity, although Saxon and Roman working is claimed. The guides tell the tallest of all cave stories in any British Show Cave! The best one concerns Druids' Altars which, it is claimed, were used for sacrifices. A glance at these altars show them to be benches left by the miners who removed the stone in sections. Another story concerns a "Fossil Fish". This really does appear to be part of a fossil skeleton of a fish in the dim light of the hurricane lamps provided by the guides, but close inspection with a powerful electric torch shows it as just a large slab of flint!

However, it is a good 40 minutes entertainment, and if you should wonder how the guide finds his way around just look for the numbers on the wall. The cave was used as an air-raid shelter during the war, and today parts of it are still used for storage.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 6d. C.P. Free. Time: 40 mins.

Ref: Baker, E.A., 1935. Caving. Pub. Chapman & Hall. pp. 107-118.

*According to cave guide. Three miles probably more correct.

SOMERSET

Cox's Cave - Cheddar Gorge

Manager: Mr. Robertson, Cheddar Caves Ltd., Cheddar, Som. Tel: Cheddar 53.

NGR: ST 465.539

Length: 300 ft. (-)

On the south side of the gorge, opposite the Cliff Hotel, the cave consists of seven small but beautiful grottoes joined by low archways.

Ad. A. 2/6d. Ch. 1/3d. C.P. 1/- or free ½ mile higher up gorge.

Open all year round (except Christmas Day) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or to 7 p.m. in summer. Time: 20 mins.

Ref: Balch, H.E. 1947. Mendip: Cheddar Gorge & Caves, p. 10.

Gough's Cave - Cheddar Gorge

Manager: As for Cox's Cave. Tel: Cheddar 53.

NGR: ST 467.539

Length: 900ft. (3,400ft.)

A spacious passage, terminating after 247 yards in some steeply ascending steps. Here the passage divides into two chambers, known as King Solomons Temple and St. Pauls. Near the entrance are "The Fonts", a series of stalagmite basins in a rift ascending to 98 ft. in height (not 300 ft.)

Ad. A. 2/6d. Ch. 1/3d. C.P. 1/- or free ½ mile higher up Gorge.

Time: 25 mins. Open all year round (except Christmas Day) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. in summer.

Ref: Balch, H.E. 1947. Mendip: Cheddar, its Gorge and Caves, pp. 14-29.

Wookey Hole Cave - Wookey Hole, Nr. Wells.

Owner: Mrs. O. Hodgkinson, Wookey Hole Caves Ltd., Nr. Wells. Tel: Wells 2243.

NGR: ST 532.480

Length: 700 ft. (2,000 ft.)

Situated on the south side of the Mendip Hills, 2 miles north west of Wells. Frequent bus service from Wells in Summer months. The show cave contains four chambers, Goatsherd Chamber, Witches Kitchen, Hall of Wookey and Witches Parlour. There is a splendid upper grotto, with pretty formations, and the subterranean River Axe may be seen flowing through

the cave. It is an Iron Age habitation site, and exhibits of relics may be seen in the Cave Museum (free).

Ad. A. 2/6d. Ch. 1/3d. C.P. 1/- (summer season only) Time: 25 mins.

Ref: Balch, H.E. 1947. Mendip: The Great Cave of Wookey Hole.

SURREY

Barons Cave - Reigate

Manager: The Park Superintendent, "Caberfieigh", Hatchlands Road, Redhill. Tel: 4525.

NGR: TQ 260.515

Length: 200 yards

In the grounds of Castle Hill, the caves consist of a series of man-made tunnels, excavated in White sandstone. There are two entrances, one is in what would be the castle keep, which is securely fenced over, and the other at the bottom of the hill, where entrance to the caves is normally made. A passage connects these two entrances, with one cul-de-sac leading off. The passages date back to 1016 A.D. and were probably used as a secret tunnel from the castle. In parts the passages are 10 ft. high with an arched roof. The walls of the cave contain many inscriptions, going back to the 18th century.

Ad. A. 6d. Ch. 3d. C.P. None, Time: 10 mins. Open daily 11 a.m. - 12 noon and 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Not Sunday.

Ref: Camden 1586 Britannia (ed. Gough 1789) p. 168

SUSSEX

St. Clements Caves – Hastings

Owner: Hastings Corporation.

NGR: TQ 823.095

Length: ¼ mile approx.

The caves are situated at the top of West Hill, quite near the castle, in a soft white sandstone, and although many of the passages are artificial, some of them are claimed to be natural. Very little is known of the history of the Caves, but due to the proximity to the coast they are naturally associated with smugglers. Today the caves are illuminated by coloured lights giving quite an interesting effect. There is an underground restaurant (open during summer months only) and also an underground ballroom. There are a few rock carvings, including a Statue of Napoleon, and many engravings. Of special interest are the Dordogne type reindeers. Needless to say, these are quite modern.

Ad. A. 1/- Ch. 6d. C.P. None. Time: ½ hour. Open all year round.

Ref: "There is a Cavern in the Town" Pub. Hastings Corporation, Entertainments Dept., Price 6d. on sale at cave entrance.

YORKSHIRE

Ingleborough Cavern - Clapham (Also known as Clapham Cave)

Head Guide: 331 Killinghall Road, Bradford 3.

NGR: SD 754.710

Length: 600 yards (½ mile)

There are two main routes to this cave, one by the free footpath from Clapdale Farm, and the other through the grounds of Ingleborough Estate, which costs 6d. for adults and 3d. for children, and is not included in the admission charge for the cave.

This Show Cave is one of the few unspoiled by commercialism. The visitors are conducted round by candlelight, along the banks of the subterranean Fell Beck, past the unusual formations, in natural surroundings, such as the Elephants Legs, the Mushroom Bed and the Jockey's Gap. The Show Cave ends at the Pool of Reflections, a sandy bottomed pool in which one can see the images of the stalactites overhead.

Ad. A. 1/6d. Ch. 1/- C.P. None. Time: ½ hour. Open every weekend, including Bank Holidays, and Tuesdays to Fridays from June to September. Other times by special arrangement with the Head Guide.

Ref: Ingleborough Cavern, Pub. Dalesman Publishing Co., on sale at cave entrance 1/-.

Stump Cross Caverns - Nidderdale

Owner: Mr. G. Gill, Mill House, Wath, Pateley Bridge, Yorks.

NGR: SE 098.636

Length: mile (2 miles)

On the south side of Grassington to Pateley Bridge Road. The Show Cave is illuminated by Fluorescent and coloured lights. The visitor is permitted to wander round in his own time without the ceaseless chatter of a guide. The highlight of the cave is The Sentinel, a stalagmite pillar 9ft. 6ins. high. The cave's "claim to fame" is that it is here that Geoff Workman carried out his 108 days underground marathon.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/- C.P. Free. Time: 20 mins. Open all year round.

Ref; Stump Cross Caverns. Publ. Dalesman Publishing Co. Price 1/- on sale at cave entrance.

Weathercote Cave - Chapel le Dale

Apply to Weathercote House, Chapel le Dale for Permission.

NGR: SD 739.775

Length: - (400 ft,)

On the west side of the Ingleton to Hawes road, just above Chapel le Dale Church, entered by White Gate marked "Weathercote House". This cave was a very popular attraction in the

18th century, until the opening of larger show caves in the area. Weathercote Cave is 108 ft. deep and one may climb down into this roofless chasm by means of rickety and slimy steps. A waterfall 27ft deep appears from behind Mahomet's Coffin, a huge wedged boulder. There is no guide and no lights are needed.

Ad. A. 6d. Ch. 3d. C.P. None. Time: 10 min. Open all year round, apply above for key.
Ref: Hinson, R. & L. 1961. Around Ingleton, p. 14. Pub. Dalesman Publishing Co. price 1/6d.

White Scar Cave - Ingleton

Manager: Mrs. Sharpe, White Scar Cave, Ingleton via Carnforth. Tel: Ingleton 244.

NGR: SD 712.745

Length: mile (1½ miles)

On the east side of the Ingleton to Hawes road about one mile from Ingleton. The first 700 ft. of passage have been blasted to reach the natural cave. The visitors are conducted along duckboards over the subterranean tributary to the River Greta. One has all the excitement of surmounting underground waterfalls without the discomfort of getting wet. The cave is only marred by the frequent notices threatening the visitors with prosecution, etc., if they touch the sides of the cave.

Ad. A. 2/- Ch. 1/- C.P. Free. Time: ½ hour. Open all year round.

Ref: White Scar Cave. Pub. Dalesman Publishing Co. Price 1/6d. On sale at cave entrance.

Yordas Cave - Kingsdale

Seek permission from Braida Garth Farm, Westhouse.

NGR: SD 705.791.

Length: 300 ft.

On the west side of Thornton to Dent road in small plantation one mile beyond Braida Garth. The name of this cave is reputed to have come from the Vikings who settled in Kingsdale over 1,000 years ago.

In the 18th Century the cave was a very popular place for tourists but today few people visit it, possibly due to the waterspout in 1817 which partially filled the entrance with mud and stones. The entrance consists of stone archway and steps leading down into a magnificent chamber 180 ft. long, 50 ft. wide and 80 ft. high, adorned with stalactite formations. Upstream there is a smaller chamber called The Chapter House, containing a fine waterfall. As guides and lights are now no longer provided visitors should take a powerful electric torch with them, candles being insufficient to illuminate the large chamber. Wellington boots are also necessary as the main chamber is quite muddy and has a stream running through it.

Ad. Free but seek permission from above first. Open all year round.

Ref: North, John 1960. A Cave of Viking Reknown, Country Life, April 7th.

BOOK REVIEWS

DIVING REVIEW 1962 (Cave Diving Group 1963) 4to., 25p., plans. (Obtainable from F.J. Davies, 10 Bramley Rd., Street, at 3s.0d. p.f.)

Contains good clear reports (most of them illustrated by surveys or sketch plans) of dives and the exploration of new passages discovered by means of diving. The principal accounts are of Swildons VII and VIII, Stoke Lane III, the Upstream Passages of Ingleborough Cave, Upper Niddhead Rising and Threapland Cave.

T.R.S.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL CAVING GROUP PROCEEDINGS VOL. I.
(for 1962-63) (issued 1964) 4to., 14p., plans, sections. (Obtainable from A.D. Oldham, 43 Ashley Hill, St. Andrews., Bristol 6)

The articles in this new publication are very largely concerned with caves near Bristol. The caves themselves have mostly been known for a long time but the eleven surveys given here are new and the text contains clear objective descriptions. The Group has also visited caves in Devon and in Mendip where they have re-opened Bath Swallet.

T.R.S.

THE HUNGRY ARCHAEOLOGIST IN FRANCE by Glyn E. Daniel
8vo., 198p., maps, plans, illus, index. £1.10s.0d. (London, Faber & Faber 1963)

The author is a professional prehistorian who has a wide knowledge of Palaeolithic art and French food. He writes a chatty and entertaining book on visiting the painted caves of the Dordogne and the megalithic tombs and stone rows of Brittany. Besides imparting the relaxed atmosphere of a leisured tour he does describe several of the caves and he discusses broadly the more important problems of cave art. Practical recommendations as to ways of getting about and eating well will be useful to many and somehow they do not read too like a guide book. Anyone seeking a formal guide or more factual information should read the Sieveking's book (reviewed in this Journal, Vol. 7, No. 87, 1962, p. 137).

This book is in fact a revised edition of "Lascaux and Carnac" (1955), almost half as big again and with more illustrations. There is an excellent new chapter on the Rouffignac paintings, giving a fair summing up of the arguments for and against their authenticity, while leaving no doubt about the author's personal opinion. Many of the chapters are not altered at all, but the recent deterioration of the Lascaux paintings is discussed and a short chapter mentions painted caves in areas other than the Dordogne.

T.R.S.

THE SPELEOLOGICAL YEARBOOK AND DIARY 1964 edited by J.K. Dryden
8vo, (vii), 174p., illus. (Obtainable from the editor at 1 Beaufort East, Bath, at 10s.0d. p.f.)

The essence of a yearbook is comprehensiveness and up-to-dateness rather than detail and this John Dryden has achieved. The book is intended for cavers at all levels from the novice who belongs to no club at all to the regular caver who wants a reliable handy reference book. Thus almost every reader is bound to find something that he personally has no use for, but the book's appeal is correspondingly wide.

Probably the most important section is the directory of British cave clubs, for nowhere else can one find up-to-date information on their addresses, publications and accommodation. The foreign section of the directory would be better left out, it is inadequate as it stands, omitting most of the important societies, and the comparatively few people who require such information can readily obtain it elsewhere.

The text - the 'Yearbook' part of the 'Yearbook and Diary' - contains also a copy of the caving safety code, notes on cave rescue and first aid, an article on gating caves to preserve them, a glossary of caving terms and a list of (some of) the proposed British expeditions abroad in 1964. Is it really true to say (p. 2) that clothes and boots will drag down even the best of swimmers? Your reviewer is still alive. A number of authors have provided short articles on their local cave regions, including Ireland and Gloucester but leaving out Devon. The printing and production is of a high standard but pages 6 and 7 have missed the proof reader.

The 'diary' section allots half a page to each weekend and the other half to the rest of the week. Dates of club events are printed in red, but they seem to consist almost entirely of Annual General Meetings. One club (of 8 members) announces that its A.G.M. lasts for two days!

T.R.S.

DIE HOHLE Part 4, 14th Year. 1963

(Verband Osterreichischer, Höhlenforscher, Wien II, Obere Donaustrasse 99/7/1/3, AS. 25.00 per annum.)

This, the final edition for 1963, contains articles including those on caving in the "Trockenes Loch" a cave 80 km. South West of Vienna (a loose survey is also included), helictites in a cave near Wiener Neustadt, in Lower Austria, and also a series of book reviews.

After each article is a summary in French which is of great assistance. This magazine is excellently illustrated, and well produced, being printed throughout.

A.C.

CAVERS DYING OF COLD by Dr. O.C. Lloyd

Reprinted from The Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal, Vol. 79 (i) No. 291. Jan. 1964 8vo. 5p.

This paper was read at a meeting of the Cave Research Group last year but has been published in a medical journal and issued as an offprint to C.R.G. members. It has not been announced whether further copies are obtainable from the Group.

The deaths of John Wallington in Swildons and Heather Muirhead in Longwood are described. They both died of acute heart failure an hour to an hour and a half after getting drenched. Similar results were obtained in experiments on human beings at Dachau. It was found then that if the subject was removed from the cold water while still alive and slowly rewarmed the internal temperature would continue to fall for another ten minutes or so, sometimes resulting in death at that stage. This continued fall in temperature can only be arrested by rapid rewarming of the subject in hot water. Blankets and hot water bottles are not sufficient. If a hot bath is not available after rescue it is better to throw hot water (130° - 140°F.) over the patient.

T.R.S,

JOURNAL WESSEX CAVE CLUB Vol. 1. Reprint 1964

It is most appropriate that the Club should celebrate its 30th Anniversary with the reprinting of the first Volume of its publications. This reprint includes Circulars Nos. 1 to 56 of the Old Series, and Circulars 1 to 25 of the New Series, from 1934 to 1950. Many of these Circulars are so rare that there is only one copy in existence. Many startling facts of the early life of the Club are brought to light. Did you know, for instance, that Morning Dress was compulsory at the early Club Dinners?

The reprint runs to nearly 80 pages, with an index by Trevor Shaw, and is obtainable from: Tony Oldham, 43 Ashley Hill, St. Andrews, Bristol 6, price 7/6d. post free,

Der Fledermausfanger

JOURNAL OF THE GRITSTONE CLUB 1963

4to., (iv), 84p., maps, plans, sections, illus. 5s.7d. p.f. (Obtainable from J.R. Sutcliffe at 16, Ryelands Grove, Heaton, Bradford 9)

It is a pleasure to see the Gritstone Club Journal revived after thirteen years. It ranks with the journals of the Rucksack Club and the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club - as 'literature' and not just as 'the literature' of caving. The contents is divided more or less equally between potholing on the one hand, and climbing, skiing and walking on the other. Most of the caving articles describe new exploration in Yorkshire (together with some in Sutherland) and there are several folding surveys. J.R. Sutcliffe argues for the existence of a post-glacial lake at Ribbleshead at the time that the caves there were formed.

T.R.S.

THE JOURNAL OF THE KENDAL CAVING CLUB 1963

4to., iii, 52 i p., plans, sections, illus. (Obtainable from K. Cowle, 9 Sedbergh Road, Kendal, at 5s.0d., p.f.)

The Kendal Caving Club is no longer a local club. Its membership is drawn from all over the country and in the last few years it has worked in several parts of Europe as well as in the northern Pennines.

The new annual Journal supersedes the former newsletters; it contains many articles of a high standard, besides conventional reports of club trips. This first issue describes the karst areas in north-west Greece, northern Norway, central France and the Pyrenees, with surveys of several of the new Norwegian caves. A small new cave in Dentdale is reported and there are many more general articles.

T.R.S.

CAVES IN WALES AND THE MARCHES by D.W. Jenkins & Ann Mason Williams

80pp., 7 maps. (Published by The Dalesman Publishing Co. Ltd., Claphan via Lancaster, 7s.6d.)

Previously the only list of Welsh Caves was in the 1953 edition of "Britain Underground", and it is only natural that a decade later there should be a gap in the speleological literature regarding this area. This is now excellently filled by "Caves of Wales and the Marches". The authors have obviously spent a lot of time and effort in compiling this book. Over 170 caves are listed in detail, giving National Grid References, 2½" and 6" Ordnance Survey Map numbers, length, details of first known exploration, position and description of cave, details concerning access, and special tackle required. Many caves which were not considered sufficiently important to warrant this procedure are recorded with just the National Grid Reference. The caves are listed in various areas, including Gower, West Wales and the Forest of Dean, which is especially convenient for locating caves in a certain district. The book is nicely rounded off with a Glossary of Caving Terms and Welsh words, and could well be called "The Welsh Cavers' Bible".

A.D.O.

SLOVENSKY KRAS (Czechoslovakian Beauties) IV 1961-62

158 pp., 16 pp of photographs, plans and figures. (Published 1963. Mikusasi. Kcs. 14,-)

This is a most impressive caving publication, printed and very well illustrated. The majority of the papers describe Czechoslovakian caves. The scientific aspect is also covered by papers on hydrology and archaeology, etc. Frantisek Skrivanek has compiled a list of caving publications from many countries, including Gt. Britain. Although "The British Caver" was listed it was noted that the Wessex C.C. Journal was omitted.

The same author also presents an article on the Third International Speleological Congress held in 1961 in Austria, including some photographs of the field meets.

A.D.O.

MENDIP NATURE RESEARCH COMMITTEE JOURNAL VOL. 1. No. 3 January 1964

30 pp and plans. (Obtainable from P.J. Romford, 71 Wharnecliffe Gardens, Wells Road, Bristol 4. Price 3/6d. p.f.)

This edition includes articles on Exposure, Mendip Cave Survey Colloquium, South Western Inlet Passage in Lamb Leer, Quaking House Cave, Milverton, and, perhaps the most interesting of all, the extensive work done by the Mendip Nature Research Committee in some of the swallet depressions in the Ystradfellte area in South Wales. The Journal maintains its usual high standard and is very well written and produced.

A.C.

CAVING AND POTHOLING by Donald Robinson & Anthony Greenbank

8vo., 171 pp., 13 figs., 15 pl., biblio., glossary, appendices & index. (Pub. Constable, London, March 1964 at 30/-)

This is a book which I can recommend to both the novice and the more experienced caver. It explains clearly and concisely everything the beginner would want to know about caving, from joining a Club to exploring caves and caving ethics. The experienced caver who reads this book should ask himself if his caving standards are really high enough. Does he, for instance, always carry a karabiner and a waist length, or on a ladder pitch use a double life-line for the last man down, first man up?

In some respects "Caving & Potholing" is similar to "British Caving" in that it has covered all the main aspects of speleology, but this book concerns itself with the newcomer's point of view of caving and therefore sets out the facts in plain, easy to read English, omitting technical jargon and complex scientific theories. Many caving books have been published over the last few years, but this is really the first book that will educate the novice into the art of good caving.

The use of ropes and ladders is covered, together with notes on which rope to use, how to make caving ladders, and the names and addresses of the firms supplying materials. The chapters on standard practice and technique are very well set out in a way which the novice will have no difficulty in understanding. Cave diving, surveying, photography, exploration, rescue, geology, fauna and flora are all described with admirable clarity, whilst the chapter on where to cave gives a brief but comprehensive review of the main caving areas.

This book is right up to date with all the latest information, much of which is not readily available except in club journals and newsletters. It is an excellent book, packed with information, a text book for every serious caver's bookshelf.

A.D.O.

THE ABBE BREUIL PREHISTORIAN A BIOGRAPHY By A.H. Brodrick (London, Hutchinson, 1963) 8vo, 256p, maps, illus, index. £1.10s.0d.

The Abbe is most widely known for his work on the prehistoric wall paintings of the caves of France, Spain and South Africa. Born in 1877, he was still quite a young man when these pictures were first recognised as ancient and in time he became the world's greatest authority. Of his 84 years many were spent in the painstaking measuring and copying of these paintings and engravings - at one time the only way of reproducing them and still for some of them the best. The results have appeared in the series of famous (but now very scarce) monographs issued over a period of 50 years.

Associated with Breuil's work on cave art, and even more important, have been his other studies of the Old Stone Age, its deposits, implements and human remains. At the turn of the century there was no proper sequence of cultures and he was faced with a mass of conflicting evidence and unsatisfactory deductions. The Aurignacian period was formerly thought to be only an initial stage of the Magdalenian, but by the age of 25 he had established it in its proper place before the Solutrean; in due course he classified the Magdalenian period into its six phases - all this without the aid of radio-carbon dating which has subsequently confirmed his conclusions.

Breuil really deserves one of those pleasant leisurely two-volume biographies that used to be written in the last century. Brodrick, himself a prehistorian, has difficulty in doing his subject justice in a smaller book and his text is often 'bitty'. To show clearly the significance of some of Breuil's work has required a lot of background explanation where one is sometimes left impatiently awaiting the return of the Abbe himself.

It is surprising to find no more than the barest reference to Breuil's pronouncements on the authenticity of the suspect paintings at Rouffignac.

T. R. S.

THE CLIMBER A monthly magazine first published in October 1962 at 2/- 40 pp and many illustrations. (J.H. Maxwell Ltd., 146 King Street, Castle-Douglas, Scotland.) Although the title suggests that this magazine is primarily for the climber it quite often contains articles of interest to the caver. Listed below are some of the caving articles from July onwards.

July. p.36. Potholers Rescued, from a cave near Vallon Pont D'Arc in southern France.

August, p.18, The World of the T'owd Man by T.J. Hunt. Describes the "Yorkshire Underground Research Teams" exploration of the lead mines in Greenhow Hill, Yorkshire.

September, p.16. Sidelights on Gaping Gill by Thomas Dale. This includes a most unusual account of a person falling down the main shaft, uninjured, meeting an inhabitant who made a similar entry and how they lived off fish caught from underground pools and finally emerged at Clapham! Martel's descent and other accounts are given.

October, p.6. Ingleborough Cave by Thomas Dale. A show cave description.

November, p.5. Caving in Scotland by J. Butler. A Short account of the activities of the Paisley Troglodytes Club in Jacobites Cave, Arrochar.

November, p. 35. Cave Couple, two Italians married in a cave.

November, p. 36. Geoff Workman's Underground Stay.

December, p. 35. Letter from Robin Hood on Caves of Scotland.

A.D.O.

MENDIP CAVE REGISTER

It is not often that one has the opportunity of reviewing an exclusive 'Subscribers only' publication of which only a few copies are made, but with the Mendip Cave Register this is the case. There are only three copies, one is in Bristol Reference Library (Ref: 551.44094238), another at Wells Reference Library, and the third is kept by the M.C.R. Secretary, Bryan Ellis, so that it can be amended and exchanged with a library copy thereby keeping each copy up to date, and not leaving a library without a copy.

The Mendip Cave Registry will eventually list all caves, mines, swallets and resurgences in and on the borders of the County of Somerset. This includes caves as far away as Quaking House Cave, Taunton, to Caves of the Avon Gorge, Bristol, and the Stone Mines of Bath. One or two caves have still to be included but of course a register of this type will never be up to date whilst there is still 'Caving on Mendip'.

Each cave is filed under its National Grid Reference. The details of the name and address of the Landowner or tenant are given, together with details of conditions of access. This is followed by a brief description and a list of references, which can sometimes be quite formidable as in the case of Swildons Hole, Priddy, which has over 100 references! If the cave has been surveyed this is also noted, together with the name and address of the person from whom a copy may be obtained.

The collection of this material is a colossal task which has kept many people busy for several years. Apart from extensive field work, looking for and exploring caves, the armchair cavers have also been busy, reading and extracting references from caving and archaeological books.

The Register is the most comprehensive work on Mendip Caves which all cavers should make a point of inspecting.

A.DO.

DEEP IN CAVES AND CAVERNS by L. and G. Poole

8vo, 158 p., illus., index. £1.10s.0d. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1962)

Some of the information in this book is true. The authors imply in their preface that they have never been down a cave and the text conforms this.

T.R.S.