

# SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

---

NUMBER 50

CONTENTS

JUNE 1965

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
  2. TONIGHT'S DARKNESS ..... W.H.LITTLE
  3. MOROCCO 1965 ..... D.KEMP
  4. CLUB NEWS.
- 

## 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at H.Q. Fenwyllt, Easter Sunday 1965

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1965

President.	Brig. E.A. Glennie, C.I.E. D.S.O.
Vice Presidents.	Mr. A.H. Hill. Mr. D.W. Jenkins. Dr. D.A. Bassett, B.Sc. Phd. F.C.S. Mr. C.L. Railton.
Chairman.	Dr. E. Aslett.
Hon. Members.	T. Ashwell Morgan, Dr. A.J.R. Hudson. C. Powell, Mr. & Mrs. J. Barrows. Mrs. G. Price, G. Platten. Mr. & Mrs. P.W. Harvey, C. Freeman. Z. Pepionic, Dr. A. Price.
Hon. Secretary.	John Osborne.
Hon. Assistant Secretary.	Richard Baynton.
Hon. Treasurer.	John Bevan.

Cont.

Hon. Editor.	Gwyn Thomas.
Hon. Records Officer.	Derrick Webley.
Hon. C.R.O.	Gordon Clissold.
Hon. Tackle Manager.	Frank Baguley.
Hon. Warden.	Douglas Baguley.
Committee.	Les Hawes, William Little, Bernard Woods.

.....

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to another annual general meeting of the Clwb Ogofeydd Deheudir Cymru.

I am now constitutionally (bless it) obliged to tell you just what has been happening to the South Wales caving scene during the past year and a bit. Perhaps the word 'caving' is slightly misplaced, it appears that caving is taking a second place in club activities, the armchair cavers are thriving and multiplying, their ranks have been reinforced by a new set which have a political streak and the few who still come to Penwyllt to cave are finding themselves in the minority.

This, then, is the situation as I see it; the cure is simple, it can be described in a few words: "Stop Talking and Start Digging".

The success of every caving club is very closely related to the success of the club's digging activities; there is no greater stimulus than a good find and this is what we need at the moment. A stagnant club is not something to be petted and pitied; it is something which needs a revitalising kick in its backside (main passage), and whether we like it or not, the fact remains that our club is becoming stagnant. We have the finest facilities in the country, our membership list is full of good cavers and we are situated in an area which has tremendous potential. Let us then use the former to exploit the latter and perhaps we will be able to add to the list of fine caves in the area, instead of accepting the existing caves as being sufficient. We must do more digging in the future. There are plenty of good digs in the area which have remained redundant for far too long. This "Get up and do it" spirit which I referred to in last year's report is still latent, and we have done very little to rid the club of this "Old Maids" disease. At the moment 90% of the digging is being done by 5% of our members; this is not a very satisfactory position and we must rectify it.

If you want any help in the way of shuttering, digging equipment, transport etc. then all you need do is ask. I consider that the committee is obliged to give as much help as it possibly can to digging projects, and the dig does not have to be situated within coughing distance of the boffins' "Tile Tarw" room. A project in Brynmawr or Park Cwm has as much right to club support as one in Mr. Burton's old bog.

Well! now that you all know about the things that didn't happen last year, I will press on and remind you of what did happen.

By far the most important event of the year was the re-opening of Dan-yr-Ogof. This cave, which has been ruled out of bounds for far too long, was opened to the public last summer, and even more important from the caving angle, both Dan-yr-Ogof and Tunnel Cave were opened to us. The club is deeply indebted to the Cave Co. on this score, and I would like to thank them on behalf of everyone for the privilege. Particular thanks must, however, be given to Dr. Alfred Price and Mr. Trevor Lewis for the individual help they have given. Dr. Price, with a few exceptions has been almost entirely responsible for the solving of our re-entry problem, and Mr. Trevor Lewis has always opened the cave at our convenience, often at great inconvenience to himself. Our sincere thanks to both these gentlemen.

Dan-yr-Ogof has accommodated its fair share of cavers since it was opened and perhaps this attraction has contributed somewhat to the scarcity of active digs. Whilst a large amount of work has been done in the cave, in the way of exploration, surveying, telephone fixing etc. and this initial work is far from complete, it remains a fact, however, that the people who frequent the place spend far too much time eyeing the talent that floats about the restaurant.

To date, the Dan-yr-Ogof access procedure has run smoothly. We must continue to help the management in every way. We cannot, and must not, allow cave cowboys and idiots to destroy the good relationship which exists between the cave management and ourselves.

It is the duty of every member to observe and, if need be, to enforce the agreed conditions of entry. If we allow this gem of a cave to slip back into obscurity, then we only have ourselves to blame.

The only digs worth mentioning in this report are Waen Fignen Felin and Bloke's dig near the Haffes.

Waen Fignen Felin has been dug spasmodically during the year, and the only variation from the description I gave in my last report is that, instead of having a well-shuttered shaft 60 ft. deep, we now have a well-shuttered shaft 80 ft. deep with a blob at the bottom.

The second dig which I believe is called Ogof Haffes (at least this sounds better than the "Chairman's Hole") has also sunk further into the ground. Bloke's theory that a dig can be pushed twice as quickly by building up the entrance with the material excavated, seems to be paying dividends and the total depth of the shaft is somewhere in the region of 125 ft. If everyone followed the example of our chairman, then I am sure that we could boast the greatest number of caves per sq. mile in the British Isles. Edward is one of our most ardent diggers and it is due mainly to his efforts that this dig is still active.

There are obviously quite a number of active digs in South Wales which are being worked on by club members who do not visit Penwyllt as often as most of us. I would have liked to have included some of these in this report, but I am afraid very little can be said about them if very little is known about them. It would be a good idea if more was written about these digs. This information could then be published in the news letter. Let's take these digs off the secret list.

Last year saw the departure from the club of the finest yet expedition abroad. Very few 'Yets' were captured in Jugland, in fact, we took more than we brought back. We hope however to improve on this next year. Last year, so I am told, was a bad 'Yetting' season.

A fantastic amount of pre-expeditionary work has to be put into an expedition of the 'Balinka Pit' scale, if it is to stand any chance at all of achieving its objective, and quite a number of people gave up caving for almost a year to work on expedition equipment. This I believe to be the main reason why the club's digging efforts were practically non-existent during the period. Some criticism has been directed towards the expedition for bringing about this slave drain; on closer inspection, however, the people who complained the most normally dug the least and the problem was used as an excuse for not digging rather than a reason for making a bigger effort. It's a sad reflection if all work stops when less than twenty members are diverted from caving to engineering for any length of time. After all, it is quite common to count as many as 30 members at Penwyllt on some weekends.

The Yugoslavian expedition was 100% successful and a permanent friendship and understanding was forged between the two societies, so much so that Zlatco Pepionic, one of the most active cavers in Yugoslavia and our guide on the last two visits, is spending a holiday with us this summer. "Pepi" is the chap who climbed 600 ft. into "Balinka Pit". The Balinka Pit expedition gave all the equipment which they used for the expedition to the club when they returned from Yugoslavia. Thanks to the generosity of the expedition we now have a permanent expedition store which contains equipment worth almost £1,000.

We are returning to Jugland next year with a bigger and better party of cavers, and with a bit of luck we will complete the exploration of "Balinka Pit".

I won't go into the details of the last expedition because (A) most of you know what happened and (B) a full account of our trip is to be published in the near future.

### Records.

A lot of people answer our appeal for missing publications and due to their generosity the records are now much more complete. We now have a complete set of Wessex Journals, thanks to Phil Davies and John Church, and also a complete set of U.B.S.S. proceedings, thanks to the generosity of Pete Standing. Outside the U.B.S.S. we are the only club to possess a complete set of these publications and may this inward flow of missing publications long continue.

It has been suggested by several members that my brief synopsis on the club's attitude towards the organisational tendencies within the caving world, which was published in our last newsletter, could easily have misled people, and they were of the opinion that the complete picture was not given. Whilst not agreeing fully with these comments, I concede that I might have approached the subject in a slightly dogmatic manner. The position as regards to whether or not we join one of the newly-formed Caving Councils will be kept under constant review by the committee. No absolute decision will be made until such a decision is warranted and, in my opinion, this will not be for some time, if ever.

In the summer, the secretaries and/or chairmen of all the clubs who have an active interest in South Wales caving will be invited to attend a conference at Penwyllt to discuss how these organisational tendencies affect the clubs who cave in this area.

This will enable everyone's views to be aired, and I am sure that it will help everyone to understand one another a little better.

This subject has absorbed far too much of my time and also the committee's time during the past year, so I will say no more. Our prime object is caving and not regional politics. We have not been troubled with this verbal disease in the past, and I see absolutely no reason why we should be saddled with it in the future.

Well! that's my lot, I'm afraid. Before concluding I would, however, like to thank you all for showing so much confidence in me two years ago. The reason why I cannot stand for re-election is due entirely to the fact that I have to get my nose into a pile of

books and pass some final examinations. The alternative is to persuade the South Wales Caving Club to employ me as a full time secretary, and we all know how much someone of my calibre is worth (Ha! Ha!)

Thank you all very much.

Gwyn Thomas.  
Hon. Secretary.

#### HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Members.

Before you pick out too many points for me to answer let me get in first with my story.

We've made a profit in the year of £111. Expenditure is down and income is up. Contrary to belief, the lower outgoings are not entirely due to no bills being paid this year. Headquarter costs are down by £47 because of smaller coal and calor gas purchases. Unless someone has found a natural (free) source of calor gas below Cwm Dwr, it is difficult to explain how last year we spent £37 and this year only £8. On the other hand our Electricity bill is up by £14. All other items remain about the same. General Expenses are £31 less, the only significant changes being £76 less on Club Tackle and Newsletters and Circulars costing £21 more. This latter increase arises from more electronic stencils being incorporated in the Newsletters.

On the income side, H.Q. Fees just go up and up and up. Last year's record figure of £266 is now replaced by this year's £305. Almost Trust House levels of income. Subscriptions are below last year's figure because I have not been able during the year to make the required effort of chasing the forgetful ones. I anticipate getting another £20 before handing over and this will serve to boost next year's income. The Publishers have paid the first royalties on "Caves of Wales and the Marches" and the joint authors, David Jenkins and Ann Williams, have, as you probably know, generously made these payable to the Club. Overall, our income is up by £17 and our surplus from £16 to £111.

Below, the usual provision is made for the H.Q. Repair Fund which has now reached a very satisfactory level.

Over the page we deal first with "Jefferson's Hoard" and may I put it on record that the limited financial transactions give no indication of the very considerable amount of work the Scientific Sub-Committee has done and is doing.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the  
Year ended 28th February, 1965.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£. s. d.	<u>INCOME</u>	£. s. d.
<u>HQ Expenses:</u>			
Electricity	36. 6. 6.		
Coal	26. 14. 9.		
Calor Gas	8. 0. 0.		
Cleaning &c. Materials	4. 14. 1.		
Dustbins	3. 3. 0.		
Water Supply to No.4.	10. 0. 0.		
Common Room Seating	4. 9. 2.		
Rates & Water Rates	30. 19. 4.	HQ Fees	305. 0. 0.
Fire & Burglary Insce.	11. 7. 8.	Rent: 5 Powell Street	9. 2. 0.
Sundry Expenses.	<u>5. 19. 6.</u>		
	141. 14. 0.		
<u>General Expenses:</u>			
Club Tackle	1. 7. 6.	Annual Subscriptions	86. 10. 0.
Cave Rescue Equipment	36. 15. 6.	General Donations	7. 9. 0.
Survey Equipment	17. 12. 0.	Dalesman Publishing Co.	
Records, Publications &c.	18. 1. 0.	Royalties - Caves of	
Dan-yr-Ogof		Wales &c.	22. 14. 6.
Changing Hut.	5. 7. 3.	Sale of Ladder Materials	5. 0. 8.
Telephone Rental &		Telephone Calls	10. 19. 3.
Charges	29. 18. 11.	Use of No.4 - Local and	
Newsletters & Circulars	50. 18. 7.	Parliamentary Elections	4. 0. 0.
Printing, Stationery &c.	17. 3. 5.	Interest on Deposit a/c	8. 11. 0.
General Postages	15. 15. 0.	Sundry Income	3. 17. 4.
Public Liability Insce.	8. 12. 6.		
C.R.G. Sub. 1965.	1. 5. 0.		
Glam. Nat. Trust			
Sub. 1964 & 1965.	2. 2. 0.		
Sundry Expenses	<u>4. 14. 10.</u>		
	209. 11. 6.		
	351. 5. 6.		
Gross Surplus for the Year	<u>111. 18. 3.</u>		
	<u>£463. 3. 9.</u>		<u>£463. 3. 9.</u>

Net Revenue and Appropriation Account

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Annual HQ Repairs Fund Provision	100. 0. 0.	Gross Surplus bt. down	111. 18. 3.
Contribution - Scientific			
Sub-Committee	10. 0. 0.		
	<u>110. 0. 0.</u>	Net Surplus bt. down	1. 18. 3.
		Balance at 1st March	
		1964.	215. 0. 11.
Balance carried forward	<u>£216. 19. 2.</u>		<u>£216. 19. 2.</u>

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

Scientific Sub-Committee Account.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Aerial Survey Maps.	5.	5.	0.	Balance at 1st March, 1964.	3.	0.	0.
Paper, Files & Postages.	2.	1.	3.	Contribution from General Account	10.	0.	0.
Balance carried forward	7.	15.	9.	T.V. Fee	2.	2.	0.
	<u>£15.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>0.</u>		<u>£15.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>0.</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28th FEBRUARY, 1965.

<u>Liabilities &amp; Credit Balances.</u>	£.	s.	d.	<u>Assets &amp; Debit Balances.</u>	£.	s.	d.
Capital Balances	419.	19.	4.	1-10 Powell Street (at cost)	200.	0.	0.
HQ Repairs Fund	400.	0.	0.	Roneo Duplicator w/d value	9.	11.	6.
Scientific Sub-Committee	7.	15.	9.	Club Tackle, Rescue & Survey Equipment w/d value	203.	8.	6.
Revenue Balances	216.	19.	2.	Plant, Loose Tools &c. w/d value	6.	19.	4.
				HQ Fees Outstanding	133.	14.	0.
				Other Debtors	3.	13.	6.
				<u>Cash at Bank:</u>			
				Current a/c Lloyds Bank	36.	12.	3.
				Deposit a/c S.Wales Trustee Savings Bank	351.	4.	5.
				Cash in hands of Hon. Treasurer.	99.	10.	9.
	<u>£1,044.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>3.</u>		<u>£1,044.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>3.</u>

L.A.Hawes.

Hon. Treasurer.

13th April, 1965.



The Balance Sheet again shows a healthy state of affairs. The amount of H.Q. Fees outstanding may seem somewhat alarming at first but much of this has, of course, been paid between the end of February and the present time. The building-up was due to bills not being sent out at the usual time and it is hoped that the remaining bills to clear up all the small outstanding amounts will go out by the end of this month.

On my job generally, most of you will know that because of continuing heavy commitments at work I have not been able to give my Club work the attention it should have. My sincere apologies to all who have suffered from the lack of communications with Fleet: I can only say that it grieves me just as much as not being able to hound you for your cash. One of the local councils, unwittingly, I hope, sums up the situation by addressing their rate demands to L.A. Hawes, Non. Treasurer. May I say a particular word of thanks to Bill Little who has helped me greatly during the year both by doing parts of my work for me and by introducing a new system for the sending on of H.Q. Fees.

You will have noted with relief that I have asked not to stand for the Treasurer's job next year. I cannot see my work commitments easing very much in the next two or three months and I have also to cater for the increasing demands on my time by a young family.

May I say a few words to comfort my successor. When I took over the job I did so for three months until the next AGM when "someone else" would take over. That was ten years ago. I have enjoyed doing the job and in this way helping the Club to grow to its present stature. In 1955 we had £60 in the Bank, rented a two up and two down hovel for 1/- a year, paid 1/6 a night cottage fee and ten bob subscription. You still pay 1/6 a night but to stay in your own row of ten cottages. You have access to equipment worth about £200 and have almost £500 in the Bank. There is not the slightest reason why this progress should not continue. You might be interested to learn that in the last ten years we have spent over £2,800 and received by way of income over £3,400.

When you approve these accounts with acclaim, may I ask you to do so subject to audit because I have not been able to get the books to John in Cardiff in time for him to do his part this year.

Les Hawes.  
Hon. Treasurer.

TACKLE OFFICER'S REPORT

ITEMS. Appeal, purchases, sales, equipment allocation, expedition stores, workshop and general miscellaneous.

1. APPEAL. I made this immediately upon taking over and the results are:-
  - A. Good ones.
    - a. Gifts. One bench drill by G. Kendall and one industrial sewing machine by Glyn Thomas, to be delivered. Phones and electricians etc.
    - b. Loans. A lathe by I. Homes, now made operational by F.S.B.
    - c. Purchase of tools. from W. Hughes, for carpentry and building. Also G. Saunders.
    - d. Gift of tools & materials. Various by L. Galpin, W. Little, G. Saunders, F.S.B.
    - e. Improvements to equipment. Improvements have been made to swages and jigs by G. Saunders, J. Osborne, D. Morgan, F.S.B. and others. 500 ft. made.
    - f. Care of ropes and ladders. They are being better cared for, except for one serious case where a ladder had been belayed by a rung!
  - B. Bad ones.
    - a. Log book is not being maintained properly, or not at all. Losses and damage are not being recorded and some is on long lease!
    - b. Damages. Insufficient care is being taken of equipment, or the wrong tools used. I have had to repair 36 tools this year.
    - c. Lists. It is still impossible to make a complete list of all the equipment because of non-return or loss of tackle.
2. PURCHASES. (Apart from any above).
  - a. Two 3/4 wt handlines, now dyed pink and locked up!
  - b. 2 1/2 miles of telephone cable.
  - c. 10 ammo tins for rescue.
  - d. More spades etc. pending.
  - e. 2 Abney levels.
  - f. 2 survey tripods made by F.S.B. (not as tackle officer!)
3. SALES.

Rungs and ferrules sold for private ventures; it has yet to be decided how to allocate the money obtained.
4. ALLOCATION OF EQUIPMENT.
  - a. Survey equipment is now locked up in No.10 laboratory. 3 keys.
  - b. One dozen essential items have been put into rescue.
  - c. A reserve of tools and ladders is being kept locked in No.3.
  - d. General tackle is available in No.3 and is not locked up.
  - e. Carpentry and building tools locked up in No.3.
  - f. Engineering tools etc. in No.1 workshop, locked up.
5. EXPEDITION STORES NO.1. (upstairs). Not yet checked, list not obtained.
  - a. Given by Yugoslavian expedition, with certain conditions.
  - b. Loans have already been made to two further expeditions.
  - c. Further items have been acquired, thanks to N. Dilly.
  - d. Improvements continue to be made to the equipment.
  - e. Possible that additions will be made to it from other expeditions.

6. WORKSHOP.

These have been improved and will be further improved as time and space warrant. Please keep them tidy.

7. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. Improvements are continually being made to equipment.
- b. A phone has been put into D.Y.O. thanks to W.Little etc.
- c. Traverse wires in O.F.D. and Tunnel have been checked and repaired as have also the phone cables in O.F.D.
- d. The entrance of O.F.D. has been shored-up temporarily pending weather.
- e. Duplicate sets of keys on anchor have been made and left in the Grithig.
- f. General and detailed assistance has been given to the Cottage Warden (S) on maintenance of service, tools and buildings and contents.
- g. The demand for equipment for long and short term periods continues to increase and sometimes exceeds the supply.
- h. Owing to the increased work entailed, it has been proposed that the name be altered to Equipment Officer, who may need an assistant. The job now certainly restricts one's outside (or inside?) caving activities.
- i. I would like to express my thanks to committee members and others already mentioned or inadvertently left out, for the help I have been given in the past year. Help, in the form of animal, vegetable or mineral is always acceptable and will be appreciated and I hope mentioned in despatches.

F.S. Baguley.  
Tackle Manager.

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISERS REPORT.

Rescue Personnel

During the year new lists of Cave Rescue Personnel have been compiled in separate areas and circulated; the number amounts to 120.

The purpose of separate areas is so that Wardens in charge of these separate teams will go all out to make them fully competent and compact units with specific information on caves in their area appertaining to Cave Rescue.

The areas are:

The Gower running North to the Brynamman Mountain Road and all areas West controlled by the Swansea team of 15 members.

The area extending from Bridgend running North to the Brynamman Mountain Road and Eastwards to Pant Mawr controlled by the Aberdare / Barry team of 5 and 14 members respectively.

The area extending from Cardiff running North to the Nedd Fechan and Eastwards to the Pontsicill reservoirs controlled by the Cardiff team of 20 members.

The area extending from Pontypool running North to Abergavenny and West to Pontsicill reservoirs controlled by the Brecon / Pontypool / Hereford team of 28 members.

The area of the Forest of Dean & Cotswolds controlled by the Gloucester team. At present 8 listed members but in the process of being formed by the Gloucester Speological Society and with members of the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club which will bring the potential in the area to approx. 30 members.

The North Wales area will be controlled by the North Wales Caving Association which is still in the process of being formed.

Outside listed members are Birmingham 13, London and surrounding areas 10, scattered areas 19. The Mid Wales area, at present, is not controlled by any special team due to the fact that few members live in the area and there are no local caving groups. A team of members who have intimate knowledge of the area requires to be compiled in case of emergency.

#### Rescues and Incidents.

There has been a drop in the number of accidents compared to last season and none of the incidents has resulted in serious injuries or loss of life.

#### Cwm Dwr. Sunday 5th. April 1964

A call out was given at 4 p.m. to assist in the rescue of a person injured on a rock bridge at the far end of Cwm Dwr. The leader of a party of 6 fell from the end of a narrow passage onto a rock bridge in the passage below, partly demolishing it at the same time. The rest of the party could not go to his assistance due to the fact that the leader was carrying the only lifeline. The rescue party reached him by 4.50 and he was found capable of helping himself out of the cave. The rescue was completed at 6.20 by 9 members.

#### North Wales. Sunday 28th. September 1964

A call for assistance was received from North Wales in the search for two missing youths thought to be caving in the area. Members in the Birmingham area were then contacted to assist. The search was concluded when the youths were found in Weston-super-Mare on Friday, 2nd. October. Approx. 228 members of various C.R.O.'s assisted.

Ogof Fynnon Ddu. Saturday 5th. December 1964.

At approx. midnight an alert was given that 4 cavers were missing from a tourist trip in the Rawl, Waterfall, Stream Passage area. The party had completed their tour and were returning via the stream passage but found the water rather high at the 4th. pot. On deciding to retrace their steps out via the escape route a member was swept off his feet also taking the leader with him. They were soon followed by a 3rd member into the 4th pot. The leader made several attempts to get back over the 4th pot but was eventually swept over the 3rd in his attempt. It was then decided to await rescue and the 4th member to try and make his way out via the escape route. This he failed to do.

The party was soon found and assisted out of the cave. After they were given hot beverage by Mrs. Sylvia Barrows and a good night's sleep, they were none the worse for their approx. 5 hours exposure.

Tunnel Cave. Saturday 20th February 1965.

A party of 3 cavers entered Tunnel Cave by the top entrance at 10 p.m. Whilst the leader was looking for the route just past the saddle in the Cascade Avon series, he slipped and fell about 15 ft., fracturing his nose. Fortunately he was capable of helping himself out of the cave and after a message had been left at the H.Q. explaining why he was missing, was taken to hospital. The cause of the incident was put down to nailed boots on muddy stal.

Rescue Practices.

A rescue practice was held by the London C.R.O. in Aggen Allwedd on the 17th October. A full report of this will appear in a future Newsletter.

A rescue practice was held in Tooth Cave under the direction of W.E. Clarke assisted by J. & C. Harvey for the University College of Swansea C.C.

In both these practices the patient had to be taken out of the stretcher to negotiate certain difficulties and enlargement of passages would be required.

I feel it would not come amiss if members who possess explosive licences developed methods in the blasting of narrow passages. I realise some members have experience in this type of work, i.e. Blasted Passage, Cwm Dwr. Perhaps this knowledge gained can be passed on to others.

Cave Rescue Organisation Officers.

As I stated in the last A.G.M. C.R.O. report, it was proposed to overhaul the C.R.O. and designate various of the duties to Officers.

This has been carried out. The Offices and duties are as follows:

1. Cave Rescue Organiser responsible for General Organisation and Co-ordination of the miscellaneous sections of the C.R.O. The appointment of Officers, Wardens, Rescue Personnel. Relations and co-operation with the constabularies, Cave rescue organisations, Club rescue teams and Outside public rescue groups.
2. Information Officer responsible for Secretarial Assistance, Cave Rescue Personnel lists, Regional C.R.O. lists, Miscellaneous Club Rescue Teams, lists of Technical Personnel, lists of specialised equipment and Press relations.
3. Equipment Officer responsible for (excluding medical) purchases, packing, storing and the maintaining of all necessary cave rescue equipment and comforts.
4. Medical Officer responsible for purchases, packing and the maintaining of all medical supplies, medical and first aid direction. Maintaining a list of doctors available for Cave Rescue. Purchase and maintaining a supply of food necessary for sustaining Rescue Teams.
5. Training Officer responsible for Instruction to members in safe caving techniques, training of rescue teams. Adviser to outside Clubs on Cave Rescue procedure and techniques.

#### Information Section

The following data has been compiled and circulated to Wardens:

1. Procedure on being contacted by the Police.
2. Notes on Organising a rescue.
3. Organisers bag contents.
4. Call Out lists.

Lists of Rescue and Medical equipment held in the rescue room have been compiled and will be circulated when lists of general equipment have been completed.

A Press Representative has been nominated and will handle all matters of news concerned with Cave Rescue in the South Wales area.

Wardens have been instructed to compile lists of all information required in a Cave Rescue in their designated area.

#### Equipment Section.

All rescue equipment has been overhauled and re-sacked. Practically all the equipment has been painted with an orange distinguishing

mark. The equipment is now contained in the following sacks:

Comforts, Exposure suites, Hot drinks, Food, Flasks, Tentage, Tools, Blankets and Spare Comforts.

Telephone equipment is now contained in the following sacks:

Linesmans, Cave Telephone, Entrance & Organisers and Telephone Lines. A telephone line and emergency survival store has been set up in Dan-yr-Ogof.

#### Donations to Equipment

Tent and Air Mattress - Dr. E. Aslett.  
Tent - unknown donator.  
3 Telephones - L. Galpin.  
Meths Stoves - 1964 Balinka Pit Expedition.

Medical Equipment. The Neil Robertson stretcher was damaged on the Llethryd rescue and has been repaired and the ropes replaced with terylene webbing donated by Dr. R. Williams. All medical supplies have been checked and listed.

#### Donations Received

G. Platten - £2.0.0.

Meetings. C.R.O. Officers meetings were held on 16th May 1964 and 6th Feb. 1965 for general discussion on Organisation.

A C.R.O. Wardens meeting was held on 28th Feb. 1965 to give a run down on the present Organisation, Officers and their duties. The Officers gave talks with general discussion following on:-

1. Call Out.
2. Information.
3. General Equipment.
4. Medical Equipment.

Wardens were requested to install a snowball system of call out in their areas and to compile rescue information on all caves and surrounding ground in the district designated, i.e. Rendezvous point for cars, easiest route to cave entrance, base camp site, nearest phone or telephone wire, nearest point for radio car, special facilities in area etc.

It was felt the object of the meeting was achieved and it is hoped that the recommendations outlined will be carried out and information forwarded as soon as possible. I take this opportunity of reminding

Wardens that the sooner the information is collected, the sooner they will be more competent to handle a Rescue in their area with little waste of precious time.

Meetings have been held with members of the Glos. Spel. Soc. to discuss the formation of a rescue group to handle the rescues in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. Steady progress has been made and two doctors have been approached and will assist in Cave Rescue.

Assistance by correspondence also by a C.R.O. Representative attending a meeting of the North Wales Caving Association on the formation of a Cave Rescue group in North Wales. I have no up to date information on the progress of this Group.

An invitation to attend a meeting of the Agen Allwedd Cave Management Committee was accepted to discuss the laying of a telephone cable in the cave. This has been deferred until the appropriate type of cable has been obtained.

An invitation to attend the B.S.A. Cave Rescue Symposium on the 5th Sept. was declined due to all the Officers being either abroad or otherwise engaged.

A request for information on how to set up a Cave Rescue Organisation has been received from the Cornell Grotto (Nat. Spel. Society), Cornell University, New York. This request is being met.

A request from the Cave Research Group to forward information on the South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation to be compiled with other C.R.O.'s into a paper to be presented at the International Speleological Congress held in Yugoslavia this year. The request was accepted and a paper on our Organisation compiled and forwarded.

In Conclusion I would like to convey my thanks to the C.R.O. Officers and their assistants for the effort made during the past season in making the C.R.O. a more efficient Organisation and anticipate a good response from all C.R.O. Members in becoming proficient rescuers in first aid, rescue techniques and the compiling of useful information.

Gordon Clissold.  
Cave Rescue Organiser.



REPORT OF THE CAVE SCIENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

This has been a year of varied fortunes for the Cave Science Sub-Committee and if what I have to say has something of the air of an obituary, at least it can have the merit of being mercifully brief. We started the year by losing the services of David Cons who felt compelled to resign from the Sub-Committee owing to the pressure of his other commitments and we are now losing Les Hawes for the same reason. Needless to say the Sub-Committee is very sorry to have to lose the services of these two members. David Cons' place has been filled by Charles Freeman who had in any case been co-opted.

Since the last A.G.M. the article setting out details of the Club's cave surveys has appeared in the Newsletter. This indicates what need be done, and survey equipment is available - here I must express the gratitude of the Club to Frank Baguley for making such superb tripods. The response from Club members, with few notable exceptions, has not been very great, and plenty of surveying remains to be done. Charles Freeman is now acting as Survey Co-ordinator and anyone prepared to do any of this very important work should see him.

The Club can, I think, be fairly satisfied with the amount of scientific work being carried out by its members. Archaeological work at Tooth Cave is now complete and an account of all this will appear in due course; John Hartwell and Arnold Jones have published the results of their investigation into the relationship between holes and known caves; biological work of various kinds is proceeding, and several members of the Club are giving papers at the forthcoming International Congress of Speleology in Yugoslavia. The fitting up of a simple general purpose laboratory in No. 10 is nearly complete and this should make a useful addition to the Club's facilities.

However, if the scientific activities of the Club are in a reasonably healthy state, the Sub-Committee itself has had its troubles. It has proved difficult for several members to attend meetings and there is a feeling that the energies of a number of busy people might be going into purely organizational matters when they could be doing actual scientific work. In view of this it has been decided, with the approval of the Committee of the Club, to reconstitute the Cave Science Sub-Committee as a Science Panel. The details have not been fully worked out, but this will be a panel of scientists or specialists who can give help or advice on scientific matters, either to the Committee or to individual members of the Club. The Panel will also be in contact with outside specialists who could be called in when necessary. Enquiries will normally be dealt with through the Panel Chairman who will pass them on to the

appropriate specialists, and meetings of the whole panel will only be necessary in special circumstances. This sort of arrangement should make it possible for the Club to use its resources of scientific and specialist knowledge effectively and we hope will result in more, not less, scientific work being undertaken. Finally I should like to remind people of the cave surveys awaiting to be carried out and urge anyone with aptitude in this direction to push ahead with the job.

G.T. Jefferson.

## 2. TONIGHT'S DARKNESS

A call on Easter Sunday for lighting for a B.B.C. "Tonight" camera team turned out to be quite a laugh and two days of hard work.

After commencing to film in Dan-yr-Ogof they found their equipment would not work off the D.C. cave lighting system nor had they enough cable to reach the lakes. They wanted to film Fyfe Robertson crossing the lakes in a coracle. We asked them to send transport to the Club for one of our  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile power cables.

The cable was dragged through the lakes in a few hours, in spite of heavy tourist traffic on a holiday afternoon. Due to rain the lakes were high, the third being impassable by boat. This added to the difficulties of carrying floodlights, cameras, sound recorders and the "Tonight" team of seven across the deep water. "Expedition" equipment was sent to the rescue in the form of a large rubber dinghy. A small one-man dinghy was quite inadequate.

Much time was spent waiting whilst Producer and Technicians discussed scenes. Lights and cameras were arranged and re-arranged. Because bad weather might have prevented "shooting" the final scene, it was decided to "do" Fyfe Robertson paddling over the lakes first (this represented the Inquisitor exploring as the Morgan Brothers were supposed to have done). This operation was completed by 11 p.m. in spite of puncturing the dinghy.

Due to the small air space at the top end of the third lake the sound of water roaring over the cataracts was muffled. The microphone did not like swimming but the right sounds were found later in another cave.

Even though we were wearing wet suits everyone was cold from hours of holding lamps and boat pushing. Hot whiskies afterwards were happily restoring.

The first and middle parts of the film were "shot" and recorded on Monday and by nightfall all our equipment was back at the H.Q. A hire fee was paid for the dinghy and the B.B.C. agreed to pay the cost of its repair. For the use of the cable and 4 or 5 helpers the B.B.C. offered us 21 guineas. Less than contractors would have charged but like Topsy it just grew. The cash is a help to the Club, whilst the publicity is valuable to our friends at Dan-yr-Ogof.

More interesting, however, was the experience of helping a professional film team. Why not a crack at something more ambitious?

W.H. Little.

### 3. MOROCCO 1965

In April 1965 three S.W.C.C. members were on an expedition in Morocco.

This was the Sixth Form Expedition from the Mortimer Wilson School, Alfreton, Derbyshire. Five sixth-formers went to the oasis of Zagora in the Moroccan Sahara to do a field survey. David Terry, Roy Kemp and Dennis Kemp went with them. No limestone in this area - it's all sandstone with igneous intrusions.

On the way home we stopped in Fes and, surprise, surprise, found we had a spare day so half the party could go to the caving area near Taza. This is in the Moyen Atlas.

The following notes were made during our visit to the area.

Fes to Taza road - 120Km - tarmac, good surface except for one stretch of 2 - 3 Km where the road is under repair. Many hairpins in places.

Taza. Take Route 311 to the South, signed Bab-Bou-Dir. This road winds up into the limestone mountains, good tarmac surface. See, on the right, Cascade de Ras-El-Ma. A hydro-electric station is at the foot of the Cascades.

At Ras-El-Ma are some reservoirs. There is a river resurgence and a tunnel driven down to meet the river underground. River sumps. Recent flooding.

A bit further on, signposted 1198 metres Col, a hill on the right of the road has a track running around and Calcite workings at the top. Evidence of a small railway. Blocks of shaped and numbered calcite and piles of chippings have apparently been aban-

done when the workings were closed down. There are some cave entrances which were not explored.

A bog cave entrance is seen on the next hill - it proved full of pigeons and to go in only 20 feet.

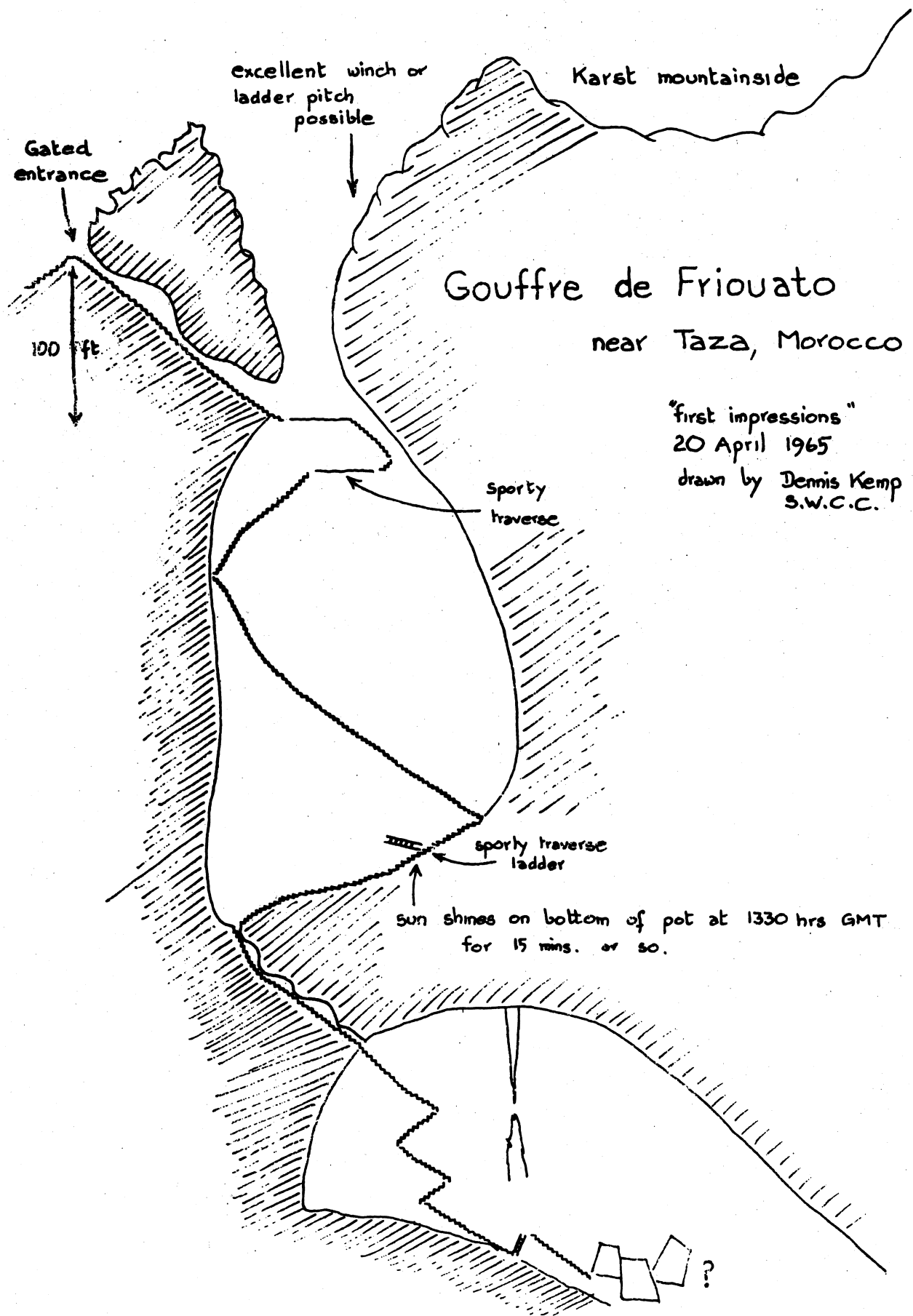
21Km from Taza there is a road junction in a wood, the road to the left is piste. Tarmac road continues to right. On the left of this is a wide valley floor. The scenery here, a wide valley with pastures and limestone hills, tree covered, on either side, was very much like the scenery we had in Yugoslavia expedition 1964.

Beyond the Km stone "23Km Taza" a stream sinks. Semi-circular wall has been built and there is a blasted vertical shaft and a sporty ladder. This gives onto an underground river. A concrete dam is visible about 20 to 30ft. below. There are iron pipes cemented in, remains of an iron ladder and a red survey number, 2, about 12 inches high painted on the wall. The passage is 6 feet wide by over 20 feet high. You need a ladder to get in. Nearby is a concrete building with sluice-gates. Also a man-hole cover with underneath it perhaps a 50 foot pot giving on to the river again. This we assumed to be the Grottes du Chikker. This is marked on the 1/1,000,000 Michelin Map number 169 of Morocco dated 1964. Continue along the road. It goes into a short cutting and 500 metres beyond the "25Km Taza" stone, on the left, are a series of shake holes, dramatic steep sided erosion in the soil, a number of sinks, no water now, and the mud floor is turned into crazy paving. The best sink, in boulders, was entered by Graham. He said it goes on 15 foot wide and 10 foot high.

Half Km further on a track winds up on the right. In about 150 metres it gives to a parking place. There is a series of wide stone steps and on the top a cave entrance, gated, with the gate destroyed. A series of tourist concrete steps leads down. Our party consisted of David Terry and Dennis Kemp, both with previous caving experience. Also Butch, Melvin and Graham, youths from Derbyshire, with little previous caving experience. None of us had any caving equipment and we had one torch in the party, so we went down the tourist steps.

About 100 feet down you emerge into daylight again and there is a platform built overlooking a very impressive drop. Light streams down through the large hole in the roof. Voices were heard and some Arab boys seen at the bottom of the pot, they came up the tourist steps and went out.

We descended the tourist steps which after the first 100 feet are in very bad repair. There was one very sporty traverse over wet mud where the iron ladder had disappeared, then a long



# Gouffre de Friouato

near Taza, Morocco

"first impressions"  
20 April 1965

drawn by Dennis Kemp  
S.W.C.C.

series of stone steps led round the walls of the chamber to the bottom of the pot. Sunlight was hitting the floor. Right at the bottom a small hole was revealed with the steps continuing down. The Arab boys had turned round and came back and joined us, they said they didn't know what was down this dark hole. Tiddler went on with our one and only lamp and then called on us. The steps continued down through a squeeze, the one and only time I have ever seen an attempt to get tourists through a squeeze. Part of the way down in complete darkness I put my hand behind me and felt a foot. One of the Arab boys was following us carrying his shoes in his hand. We adopted him into our party. His friends had stayed behind in daylight.

The steps come out into a large lower chamber with some fine formation. We followed them down to a maze of boulders when we decided it would be prudent to return. At this stage we said it's usual to drop the one and only lamp, but we didn't. Back in the daylight the Arab boy was congratulated by his friends and they told us there was a bigger and better cave at the Grottes de Kel el Rharr to the northeast of Taza. This is in the Rif Mountains.

This area of Morocco is fascinating and is three days hard driving from Penwyllt. Can we not go one year?

Dennis Kemp.

#### 4. CLUB NEWS

##### Cottage Fees

Members are requested to PRINT all entries in the fee book. They should, when accompanied by a guest, bracket their names with those of their guests.

Fees 1/6d. Members and 2/6d. Visitors are also applicable to campers using Club facilities.

##### Membership Fees.

These are now due. The fees shown in the proposed revised constitution circulated prior to the A.G.M. are not applicable until the revised constitution is accepted.

The existing scale of fees is still in force and is:-

Members ... 15s.0d.    Joint Members ... fl. 0. 0.d  
Junior Members...7s.6d.

.....  
 . Newsletter Articles.  
 .  
 . Articles are required for the next Newsletter; so please,  
 .if you have any interesting information up your sleeve, extract .  
 .if and we can then publish it.  
 .....

DAN-YR-OGOF:- SOME FURTHER POTTERING

Following a rumour that a Cave and Crag party had passed the sump at the lower, far end of Black Passage, Rod Stewart and I went to investigate this story on June 7th, when the lakes were low. It was possible to swim through to the pool at the bottom of Pot Sump some 15ft. away with 4 to 6 inches of air space in between.

The nearside of the Sump was only a couple of feet deep, with a sandy bottom shelving off. The opposite side was out of our depth, but an underwater passage could be felt with our feet. Could this connect with Lake 3?

On June 13th (for luck) we chatted with Oliver Lloyd about this probable passage and in he went with his aqua-lung. A previous day's rain had brought the levels back to normal again. The sump connecting Black Passage was closed and because it was not straight, we thought it better to return for a ladder instead of plunging straight in. Oliver went into the water and on surfacing found the telephone line in Lake 3. The estimated length is about 40ft. The 3rd Lake end of the passage can just be felt with the toes.

W.H. Little.

CAVE STUDY

10 meetings, weekly on Wednesdays, 7.00 - 8.30 p.m. in the Department of Geography, University of Bristol, University Road, starting 6th October. Fee 15s. 0d.

The increasing popularity of the sport of caving has opened up more than a somewhat unusual sportsground. This course will be concerned with the scientific aspects of caves and potholes. It should appeal both to field scientists interested in caves and to cavers interested in field science.

Caves in the British Isles are most frequently developed in limestones and it is with this form of cave that the course

will be most concerned. A consideration of the geological background to caves will be followed by details of the solutional process that are predominantly responsible for their formation. The geomorphological aspects of caves and limestone scenery will also be outlined. It is hoped, wherever possible, to discuss techniques of cave study and with this in mind a lecture will be devoted to cave surveying. Once formed caves present a specialised habitat, for both plants and animals, which will be considered from the biological point of view. Cave archaeology with its specialised methods and problems often presents a remarkable complete record of the former human and animal occupants.

The lectures will be illustrated by slides and, although examples will be drawn from many regions, special emphasis will be given to the Mendip Caves. A good comprehensive introduction to the course can be found in "British Caving" (ed. Cullingford, 2nd edition 1962, Routledge and Kegan Paul).

#### PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

6th October	Geology of Caves and Mineralisation in Caves	Trevor D. Ford, B.Sc., Ph.D. Dept. of Geology, Leicester.
13th & 20th October	Cave formation and Theories of Development	D. Ingle Smith, B.Sc., M.Sc., Dept. of Geography, Bristol.
27th October	Deposits in Caves	D. Ingle Smith, Bristol.
3rd November	Caves and Limestone Scenery	Gordon T. Warwick, B.Sc., Ph.D. Dept. of Geography, Birmingham.
10th November	Cave Surveying and Cave Surveys	Lewis Railton, A.M.I.E.E. M.Inst.W., Sutton Coldfield.
17th November	The Fauna and Flora of Caves	Brig. E.A. Glennie, D.S.O., F.Z.S., Berkhamsted.
24th November	Caves Illustrated	D. Ingle Smith, Bristol.
1st & 8th December	Cave Archaeology, with special reference to Mendip	Professor E.K. Tratman, O.B.E., M.D., F.S.A. Burrington, Bristol.



Change of Addresses

It appears that one half of the Club members live at addresses unknown to the other half.

Please inform the Secretary if your address has changed in the last six months.

Rescue Forms

These should only be sent to Bill Harries if the information held has become inaccurate.

Changes of Address

Colin Graham, "Blue Barn", St. Briavels, Lydney, Gloucester.

Congratulations are offered to the following:-

Gwyn Thomas and Jean Howells on their recent engagement.

Ridian Roberts and Margaret Jonathan on their recent engagement.

Tom and Gwenllian Round on the birth of their son.

We welcome the following new members to the Club:-

David Savage, 17 Bellevue Crescent, Clifton, Bristol, 8.

Margaret Jonathan, 25, Merthyr Road, Abergavenny, Mon.

Derek Davies, 68, Bishopston Road, Bishopston, Swansea.

Peter Linforth, 36, Heather Road, Smallheath, Birmingham, 10.

Anthony and Carol Iles, 68, Goodmoor Crescent, Churchdown.

---

Chairman.

Dr. Edward Aslett, Castle Hotel, Brecon.

Hon. Secretary. John Osborne, 34, Haygate Road, Wellington, Salop.

Hon. Treasurer. John Bevan, 62, The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, Warcs.

Hon. Editor. Gwyn Thomas, Greenfield, Hecl San, Llantrisant, Glam.

