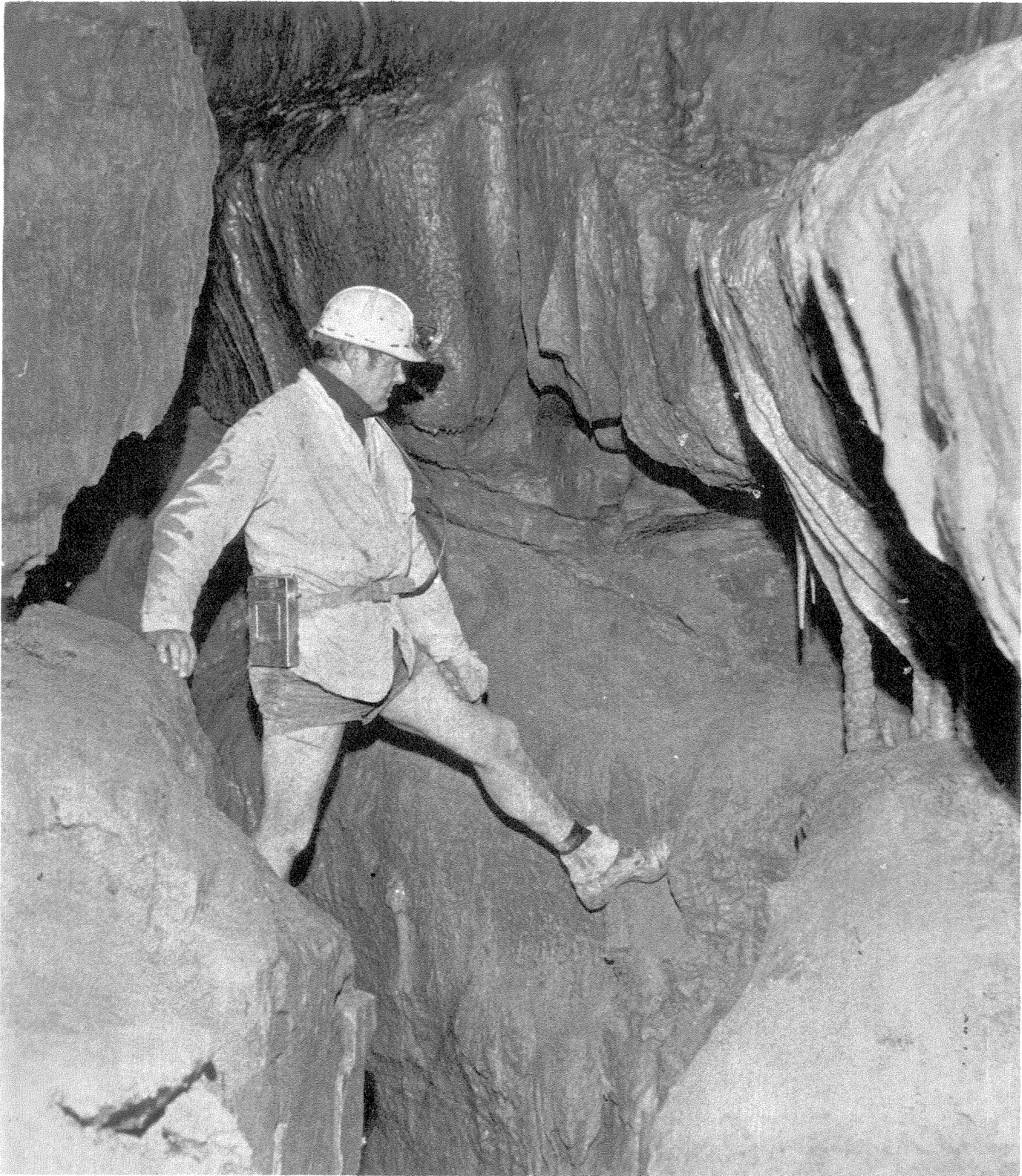


**SOUTH WALES
CAVING CLUB**

NEWSLETTER



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Cover Photograph

Edward's Short Cut Ogof Ffynnon Ddu II, by Geoff Cope.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1970 - 71.

During the last twelve months quite a lot of energy and man-hours has gone into trying to find new cave passages. Notable, amongst the many, were the days-long dig to try to open up a cave at Waun Fignen Felen, natural cave was reached but the way on was blocked. Sink-y-Giedd was re-opened - it closed and so was re-opened again. Several lengths of passage have been found in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Dan yr Ogof, Ogof Cynnes and Tunnel Cave. The digging to make a connection between Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I and II has reached a temporary standstill until a successful radio test has been made. Some maypoling has been done in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu III and in II in the area near the Crevasse. In Dan yr Ogof some more surveying has been done and a climb of Rottenstone Aven was made but no way on was found.

Archeological excavations at Ogof yr Esgryn East have so far shown the site to be barren, but a new site, nearby, has already yielded a human tooth. Flints, said to be of Mesolithic origin, have been found in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu II. If any further finds of archeological interest are made we would be grateful if the finder would record his find in the log book at the headquarters, together with the name and address of the keeper of the find.

Some work has been put into securing the lower entrance of Tunnel Cave since Davy Price's Hall is to become a show cave - to be known as Cathedral Cave. This has resulted in fresh access negotiations being made for entry via the lower entrance and consequently the top entrance is now locked, the key being available from the headquarters. For some months access to Tunnel Cave and Dan yr Ogof has been denied to us but access is now available for Dan yr Ogof but, at the time of writing, access to Tunnel Cave is still forbidden. Entry via the top entrance has been refused, in the interests of safety, whilst blasting operations have taken place. There will be an interior gate at the far end of Davy Price's Hall, the key will be available at the headquarters, its issue being subject to the bearer agreeing to the access rules.

The entrance to Cwm Dwr Quarry Cave was found blocked one week-end. It was obviously done intentionally.

Pete Cardy was co-opted on to the Committee, as assistant secretary. He has been a great help to me in arranging leaders for Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I and also in arranging trips into Dan yr Ogof for prospective guest leaders. Thanks are due to all members who have helped with visiting clubs. Thanks are also due to all members who have acted as duty officer during the past year. These members help a great deal with the daily running of the headquarters.

Twenty-four new members were accepted during the year. Due to the increase in subscription a greater number than usual, twenty-four, of former members failed to renew their subscription, this means the total membership at February 1st was 214. We were sorry to hear of the untimely death of Douglas Smith in February, 1970.

The Cave Research Group Southern meeting was arranged by us and at the last moment arrangements had to be changed and the meeting was held at the Abercrave Adventure Centre. The meeting was very successful and an enjoyable dinner followed it. Altogether four of our members read papers.

We were invited to send representatives to dinners held by two other Clubs. In April some members helped the B.B.C. with a recording about caves and cavers and in July some members helped with a visit to Dan yr Ogof for members of the Aberdare branch of the British Polio Fellowship. Bill Little wrote a booklet entitled 'Coming to South Wales Caves?', for sale to tourists and others, the proceeds to go to the South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation.

I must thank Roger Smith very much for the work he has done for the Club with regard to the conservation of Ogof Ffynon Ddu, the Commons Registration and also in connection with the domestic water supply at the headquarters.

Following a recommendation of last year's A.G.M., the Officers' reports, with the exception of the Treasurer's report, are being sent out before the A.G.M. It was also decided to send out the A.G.M. minutes and members should have received these early last year. Also, since May, an edited version of the minutes has been displayed on the headquarter's notice-board.

The Committee has considered the purchase of a small second-hand off-set duplicator and this matter will be brought before the meeting.

1971 sees the 25th anniversary of the Club's formation. We shall be arranging a dinner, to be held in October, to celebrate. Can we also celebrate it with a big find?

Last year I divided my report into three sections and I'll do the same this year. The Sections are:- (1) Provision of consumables; (2) Provision of facilities, and (3) Maintenance and repairs to the structure of the building.

1. Provision of consumables:

During the last year there has been no shortage of any consumable except water, due to a burst in a pipe behind Mrs. Burton's house. I did appeal at last year's A.G.M. for speens - the result, from some 200 members, totalled approximately nil. They are still needed, but more desperately. I also asked for any additions to the consumables that are available and got one request which has been fulfilled.

2. Provision of facilities:

The main alteration in this respect is the renovation of the cooking kitchen. Although the artificial banger was not used, the shambles resulting from the demolition part did give way to a kitchen of which we should be proud, judging by the comments of the visitors. There have been two main criticisms, one on the length of the rubber burner pipes and the other on the height of the slab. But I think you have got used to these shortcomings.

Quite a lot of work has been done to fit out the upstairs front room of No.2 as a Laboratory and darkroom after the room's renovation, but a lot more, including the provision of water and electricity, has still to be done.

The lack of a drying room has not yet been overcome as I have only recently managed to persuade someone to give me an estimate for the heating system and, therefore, the application for a grant towards the cost of the envisaged drying room, changing room, shower room complex has not been able to be pushed.

Besides the kitchen project some other work has been done in the hostel end this year. The back room upstairs of No.10 has had a new ceiling together with some joists and a wall-plate, and has been re-decorated.

The building of an incinerator has been started.

Lack of offers of help or even suggestions of what might be done have limited anything further being done.

3. Maintenance and repairs to the structure of the building:

Section 3 of this report is also, unfortunately, lacking in achievement in most respects. The roof purlins above No.10 have both been replaced. The pointing on the end wall of No.10 suffered a fierce attack by a group of local members and their friends. Their 'boss' promised to finish the whole wall during the year but a combination of bad weather and a gradual loss of interest got the better of them. Nevertheless the number of man-hours they put in does them credit and I only wish that the other regular users of the headquarters were half as willing to do something. If you take a look at that end of the building you will see that the final finish comes to the level of the bottom of the roof, i.e., to upstairs ceiling level and I can tell you that that part of the wall in the attic is now always dry for the first time for years. There is polythex on the undersides of the rafters over most of the headquarters roof area now.

Holes have been knocked through into most of the unused chimneys from the attics prior to completely capping the chimneys, and six of the eight chimneys from Nos. 9 and 10 have been capped. This should stop water running in over the doorway into No.10 upstairs.

That about completes the list of things that have been done and I would like to thank those of you who have helped on these jobs.

Some other points come to mind now, some trivial, some serious:-

Wastage - in particular - is one. Lights get left on unnecessarily, most people use much too much washing up liquid; only a drop or two, literally, is required - it is a detergent and you don't need a lather in the bowl for it to do its job. Too often the bottom door of the boiler is left open.

Notices - someone, with a childish mind, insists on taking down notices from around the headquarters. These are put up for information and to assist all who use the place, and it only means more work for the warden to replace them. Remember, you are not the only person who uses the place and others may just not know or think about the subject of the notice.

Thefts - all manner of things have been wilfully stolen from the headquarters during the past year including items which were, or should have been, locked away. Put things back where they belong and lock doors after you. If you take something away to use leave a note to say so. This applies to things like one gross packets of screws as well as to tools.

Unauthorised use We occasionally find visitors having a shower without even having asked permission. (In this case I mean visitors who are not staying at the headquarters.) Check strangers yourself - don't leave it all to the duty officer or the Committee.

Guests Remember if you, as a member, are bringing a guest with you, that guest is your responsibility and it is up to you to point out the H.Q. Rules to him (or her), as well as things such as the burning of dry rubbish instead of putting it in the bin, not throwing tea leaves into the sink, (this also applies to things like rice and potato peelings) and the correct use of the destination board.

Lastly, and I would like to stress this, if you break something; find something doesn't work; or is loose or dangerous; or needs some attention - don't just shrug it off, but do something about it even if it is only to tell the warden, or another Committee member. Ten minutes to put a couple of screws in a window catch may prevent your sleeping bag getting soaking wet next time you come.

During the meeting for which this report has been written I hope there will be some discussion on the future plans for the H.Q., including some talk about the proposed heating scheme, about any other suggested improvement, and also about the method of carrying out these schemes labourwise.

Finally, to those of you who have helped me to do the job of Warden (especially those who have worked on the H.Q.) let me say that the Club as a whole, as well as myself, is very grateful - and to those of you who haven't helped at all (including the three or four who have been actually obstructive) let me say the best, not the easiest, the best way to pay off your debt of gratitude is to join the other lot.

Thank you.

L.S.GALPIN, Hon.Warden, 19/2/71.

P.S. If anyone still doesn't believe that there are still serious defects in the headquarters building I will willingly point them out during the A.G.M. week-end.

TACKLE OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has seen no great expedition or concentration of club activity and has, therefore, been a fairly quiet one for the Tackle Officer.

At the beginning of the year the Committee tried the experiment of splitting the office of Equipment Officer into two posts:- 1. Tackle Officer and 2. Equipment Officer; an arrangement which was purely a committee one for last year but about which there will be a motion for constitutional change at this A.G.M. Mr F Baguley carried out the job of Equipment Officer and will present a short report attached to the end of this.

The Club Tackle and Expedition Tackle were in use on several occasions during the year. Clive Jones organised a further excavation at Waun Fignen Felen and the Generator Kango hammer and other equipment were brought into use. We loaned expeditions 800 ft of ladder and Club members made trips to Southern France and N. England.

The committee considered the discussion that took place at last year's A.G.M. and decided that if members put aids into caves and these aids were on main routes and essential for safety they should be maintained in reasonable condition. The inspection of some of those in Ogof Ffynon Ddu II and III has already started and a new rope and rawlbolt has been installed at the climb into the Great Ox bow series. There is further work to be done in this connection and any help will be welcome.

The fixed equipment into Ogof Ffynon Ddu I has been examined and found to be satisfactory; the traverse wires and their fixings are in good condition. One bolt on the waterfall traverse wire will be re-drilled and also the wire will be tightened a bit. This work will probably be completed before this report is circulated.

The 40' ladder down to Birthday Passage in Dan-yr-Ogof was found to be feathering and was removed from the cave. A new ladder is under construction and I suggest keen Dan-yr-Ogof cavers help to finish it off.

No new tackle has been purchased or made this year and the club has managed on the work of previous years. However, it will not be very long before consideration will have to be given to further construction of ladder.

During the year a handpress for pressing Talurit ferrules was acquired on a barter basis from R Stewart and also a quantity of Alkali in powder form was purchased for nife electrolyte. The donations received from members for electrolyte, use of the Club calls, and nife spans has almost balanced the expenditure on tackle.

During the year work was carried out producing various Rescue Equipment. An aerial ropeway was made and can be used for moving a stretcher along a rift. Also an experimental tubular stretcher was nearly completed, the framework being provided free of charge by Reynolds Tubes Limited. The initial trials with this stretcher were thought to be disappointing but final judgment cannot be made until the stretcher has been completed. Members of the Club are also making a longer 'Clarke' stretcher and others are engaged on the problem of combatting "hypothermia" in caves.

I would like to record that at no time did I have any difficulty in obtaining a helping hand with the tackle and would like to end by thanking all those members of the Club who helped to make the job easier. They are too numerous to list by name.

PETER HARVEY

S.W.C.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

1970 - 1971.

Acting Equipment Officer's Report:

Owing to the way in which this post was created, and the time at which it was undertaken, after the estimates for the current financial year had been submitted for the year, it was not possible to do justice to the appointment. I was off sick for three months. As a committee member I agreed to look after the job, though it had not been fully categorised. It obviously needed some form of assistance, as I had already intimated in previous years' reports as Equipment Officer. It is to be hoped that this will be finalised at this A.G.M.

A few new items have been acquired by purchase through the Cottage warden's account, and some items and materials have been very kindly donated by members and non-members, interested. Likewise, several items have been removed, one item in particular; a roll of calor gas copper piping was taken after forcing the lock on No.1 cottage. This at a time when the item was needed for the conversion of the new kitchen. The small tools which disappear are chiefly hammers, screwdrivers, spanners, pliers and drills, consequently it has been necessary to use one's own tools for projects. The majority of the tools have been marked with white paint, to distinguish them from the caving tools, and they should not be taken away from the Headquarters without the permission of the Equipment Officer or the Cottage Warden.

Material and technical assistance has been rendered to the Cottage Warden, the Tackle Officer and Cave Rescue Organiser, including work on the Expedition Stores, Kitchen, Laboratory, Drawing Office and attics, in order to improve the use of the cottages.

Much use has been made of the workshops for members' own private projects and for S.W.C.C. ones, the main one at present being the Tunnel (Cathedral) Cave gating, etc., which it is hoped to complete soon. The assistance being rendered to the D.Y.O. Cave Management Committee and to the development contractors will be duly recognised in a tangible form.

It is annoying to find that items of equipment are missing broken or unfit to use at a time when they are most needed. I would recommend that a set of engineering and carpentry tools be made available and locked up for the use of the Equipment Officer and Cottage Warden, and a set for the general use of members for jobs in or about the cottages. It is hoped that money will be made available for these purposes in the next budget.

F. S. BAGULEY, Acting Equipment Officer. 12.2.71.

HON. RECORDS OFFICER'S REPORT

Since taking over the post of Records Officer I have led the club library a particularly itinerant existence - going first from Penwyllt to East London, then to West London, and ending up in Manchester.

As a result of this, a considerable degree of disorder was imparted to the collection. Various attempts at restoring a state of order were only minimally successful, until one of the committee managed to obtain two sizeable filing cabinets. These made the task of restoring order very much easier, and swallowed virtually all our unbound publications, loose papers, photographs, etc., so that individual items could once more be located without difficulty. I will take this opportunity of thanking the member who obtained the cabinets, which have saved me hours of work.

A few more sets of publications have been bound, and the card index of subject/author has been enlarged, although this task is far from complete and will probably remain so for quite some time!

Any work put in on the library is, however, pointless unless some use is made of its contents, and since it is assumed that people do not use the library because they do not know what it contains an up-to-date inventory is in the process of compilation and it is hoped that this can be issued in the form of a "pocket reference book" in the not too distant future, with supplements published as necessary.

JEM ROWLAND

HON. EDITOR'S REPORT

It has been my aim to make each newsletter better than any that has gone before. This was not an easy task since the newsletters were already of a very high standard.

An additional difficulty was that the committee decided that the newsletter costs should be considerably reduced. The latter difficulty has been overcome. Please note that the accounts will include sufficient envelopes for three years of newsletters which were paid for out of this year's budget. The actual cost of the newsletters has now been reduced to little more than the cost of the paper.

During the year I have received a slow but fairly constant supply of articles which have not been sufficient for any regular newsletter. It has, therefore, been necessary to persuade people to write. Is this because not enough people are doing serious caving in the area, or is it that they will not write about their attempts? Why not support the newsletter by writing a short article on anything you do?

The newsletter, this year, has been produced entirely within the club. This has meant a considerable reduction in the cost, but at the same time a considerable increase in the amount of work that has to be done. I am indebted to far too many people to thank in this report for their help, without which I am sure this year's newsletters would not have been a success. I would also like to thank all the people who have contributed articles.

ROBERT RADCLIFFE

CAVE RESCUE OFFICER'S REPORT 1970 - 71.

This year there has been what we are now regarding as the usual spate of incidents. The main ones were:-

1st June 1970: Agen Allwedd, reported on in the last Newsletter.

25/26 September 1970: Pontlottyn - sheep rescue from a mountainside crevice.

30th October 1970: Draining at Porth-yr-Ogof at the bottom sump.

31st October 1970: Tunnel cave. A fall on the ladder at the Top Entrance. No serious damage. Assistance was given to victim to come out.

13/20th February 1971. Porthyr-Ogof - A diver died having apparently followed a wrong line in the wrong direction underwater. Assistance was given to divers attempting to search for the body. The body was found but had to be left owing to the over-difficult nature of the diving conditions.

I mentioned last year the dangers of flooding but it seems that the hazards of quiet water are easily underestimated. The toll in lives lost at Porth-yr-Ogof on the face of it would now merit it being classed as highly dangerous.

In addition to these "practices" there have also been formal practical training.

(1) A wet practice at Swansea University Baths was successful and enjoyed by all divers and others alike. Demonstrations and practice of sumping equipment; floating stretchers and mouth to mouth artificial respiration were the main objects.

(2) A dry first aid session in the Welfare Hall, Abercrave, was well attended with about 5 groups receiving instruction and practice in various aspects of first aid at a time.

These last two practices were considerably helped by the professional aid given by a colleague of Clive Jones, with wide experience of industrial first aid.

There were a few practices held in Ogof Ffynon Ddu with success - tackling special problems such as lifting patients from the stream.

Attendance at all practices has been quite good but nearly always some familiar faces (not always the same ones) have been missing and one feels more effort should be made by cavers to attend.

Administratively there is little to report. Illness has made it difficult for much progress to be made but callout lists have been prepared and given to callout wardens. So far, however, only 2 teams have produced sheets giving their own local snowball procedure. In our callouts we seem to be working well with other clubs and organisations and a happy relationship seems established after last year's meetings.

During the year I attended a National Cave Rescue Conference at Buxton and have been represented at local meetings with other clubs. Little new equipment has been ordered but consideration is now being given to preparing small, personal, first aid kits for sale to individual cavers; larger kits which could be carried by parties; supply dumps in hazardous caves and nucleus kits for local teams. This will require money when decisions concerning centres have been arrived at.

A new filing cabinet has been obtained. You have already, or will be receiving a card to complete. Please do so. We hope to build up a complete reference index of information useful not only to the C.R.O. but caving

All in all, some progress has been made with arrangements but please remember members, you could need help yourselves sometimes so be prepared and trained to help others.

Finally, I must thank those who have supported Cave Rescue so faithfully during the year.

R M WILLIAMS

IMPORTANT NOTICE (Warden's Message)

The locks on the front doors of the headquarters will be changed shortly after Easter this year. The new locks will be of two kinds. Type 'A' will be fitted to No.1 (workshop), No.3, (Tackle Room), and No.5 (married quarters). Type 'B' will be fitted to No.4 (changing room), No.6 (kitchen) and No.8 (by the telephone).

A bolt fitted to the married quarters side of the door between there and the ladies quarters will enable a possible mid-week visiting party to be given a key which allows access to the hostel block and the changing rooms only. In this event, which will only be arranged in advance, the small portable charger in the rescue depot will be put into the changing room for the visiting party to use, if they require charging facilities.

At present an unknown number of members (and possibly others) have headquarters front door keys. These keys will no longer be of use at the headquarters and if you have one and no longer need it for some other lock then please return them to the warden. Members wishing to hold a key in the future for any special reason will only be allowed to do so with the sanction of the Committee.

L S GALPIN

Hon. Warden.

R E S C U E

AN APPEAL TO ALL CAVERS

Are you on the Cave Rescue call-out list?
Is your call-out information up to date?
Are you sure?

The Cave Rescue Organisation has recently acquired a filing system which it is hoped will streamline the call-out system and also store relevant rescue information in an easily accessible way.

In order to compile the necessary information you are asked to fill out your own cards(enclosed) - in duplicate - and return them as soon as possible.

HOW THE SYSTEM WILL WORK:

Every caver who has volunteered for rescue work will have a personal card. One will be kept in a special filing cabinet at the Rescue Headquarters and the duplicate will be kept with the Rescue Trailer. The cabinets are constructed in such a way that any missing card "sticks out like a sore thumb" and any individual's card can be seen at a glance, without having to thumb through cards. There should then be sufficient information available to call out anyone listed.

Once this information has been collected we will organise a "Snowball Call-Out System" and try to arrange transport where necessary. We will also compile additional lists for personnel for different areas, and also for special skills; e.g., if you hold an explosive licence or have rescue experience etc.

There will also, eventually, be lists of all caves in the area, information on how to get there, the nearest convenient rendezvous point etc.

The filing system will be readily available for you to regularly check that your information is up to date.

HOW TO FILL IN YOUR CARDS: (please fill in pencil)

Mostly self-explanatory. There should be room for all your home addresses; your work address and telephone number. There is also room for other addresses should you, for example, visit your mother-in-law every Thursday night between 7.p.m. and 9.p.m. Please write the telephone numbers after the address, or give the name and telephone number of a co-operative neighbour.

The section marked "Medical" is there to provide the rescue team with information about you, should you be the victim. For example, you may be a diabetic and need special treatment. Please state your blood group, if possible. If you wish to keep your medical details confidential please write your details out and seal them in an envelope and send them to the Cave Rescue Officer. The envelope will not be opened unless you are the victim of a rescue. Write in the section marked Medical - "Detail with C.R.O."

In the section marked "Other Information" please give details of your transport and how many other people (if any) you are prepared to take, if necessary.

Finally, return the cards WITHOUT BENDING them (it is suggested that you seal them in your newsletter envelopes) to the Club and mark 'DO NOT FOLD' on the envelopes - as soon as possible please

THANK YOU

The following letter was received in reply to the request for newsletter material. In a covering letter BRUCE wrote:-

".....It's not meant to be a sick humour type letter, nor is it intended solely to stir. Just a reminder that "Fings ain't wot they used to be" and to keep alive some old terminology in the hope that these (to my mind) far better names may yet survive the passage of years, in much the same way as the legendary Smith has in Ogof Ffynon Ddu. He, poor ghost, was condemned to the limbo for many years."

.....Dear Sir,

I have just received the October 1970 Newsletter and must praise you for a very interesting edition.

However, I must remonstrate with the author of the article on the so-called "Rottenstone Avens" in Dan yr Ogof, thro' the Newsletter.

Mr Judson states that the avens, the ascent of which are the subject of his article, were discovered in the Easter breakthro' in 1966 and christened "Rottenstone". This implies that the original explorers gave the avens this name. (Anybody who does not get this impression on reading the article please correct me).

It is, I believe, usually the custom for the discoverers of a cavern to be accorded the privilege of naming that cavern. The original explorers: i.e., the first persons to cross the Green Canal, were Eileen Davies (now Inson), Charles George, Colin Graham, Rod Stewart and myself. We named the avens the "Minuteman Silo" and that part of the cave pointed out to the "tourists" as the "Abyss" the "Elephant Hutch".

This part of the cave was not then visited for some time, because of flood conditions, except for one brief visit when the Elephant Hutch pitch was descended by Bill Birchenough, Noel Dilly, Alan Coase and myself and the Thixotropic Thro'way was explored.

It was indeed a long while before the "amended versions" of the names of these areas were introduced, by the scientists who were given the run of the new extensions, and by some of the first people in after the non-scientific ban was lifted. The new terminology has by now been immortalised in the Survey of Dan yr Ogof.

Whilst I do not for one moment try to denigrate or otherwise detract from the noble efforts of the scientists and their helpers, and even less from those who have been involved in the gigantic task of producing the survey, may I put in a plea for the wishes of original explorers to be respected?

Should anyone doubt the accuracy of my statements, a study of the Logbook for the period April - July 1966 and the S.W.E.T.C. Caving Club Summer 1966 Newsletter should provide the answers.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE FOSTER "

MECHANICAL AIDS TO ROPE CONTROL

Being an article describing how modern climbing aids can saften, speed up and ease certain caving problems.

The two particular forms of aid considered are:-

- (i) The Fig.8 Descendent (Fig.1)
- (ii) Cloggers (prussikers) A newer and very useful aid.

THE FIG. '8' DESCENDENT:

Apart from its use as an abseiler the Fig.'8' is useful as a device for paying out a tensioned rope; e.g., lowering a stretcher or for controlling the slack as the rope is taken in - lifelining.

Its use should be obvious and is well described elsewhere. Points to note are - it is almost impossible to take rope in under load unless one pulls and holds the load oneself. The device may be locked as shown in Fig.1. Its strength is not up to heavy shock loads, it wears with gritty ropes.

THE CLOGGER - FIG. 2.

A clogger is a ratchet device for gripping rope one way and letting it run smoothly the other. They are sold in pairs by climbing shops, as prussikers and made by Clogwyn Climbing Gear, hence the name. The design, originated in France, was by a caver named Petzal and his devices erroneously called brake blocks are in use.

The uses of the Clogger:

1. Prussiking: This is well described elsewhere (see bibliography) and is not popular with cavers in this country. However, it may be useful in an emergency; e.g., ladder brakes whilst the first man up is climbing on a double-lifeline so it should be practised when possible. A few hints:-

Stick to 2 prussikers or knots and adjust sling lengths to permit chest attachment to one of the clamps. This takes weight off the hands;

When using knots particularly it is much easier if the rope is tensioned from below so that the lower knot can be pulled up.
2. Self life-lining: This is very useful when long ropes for double lifelining are not practical, where the pitch is too twisted to make double roping possible or where speed is important. The last man down or first man up a pitch simply attaches the clogger as shown in (Fig.3A) and (Fig.3B) respectively to a waist band or beaudriver. Obviously ascending is easier than descending by this means, hence many climbers prefer to abseil down and self lifeline up. In the latter case tension on the lower rope helps.
3. RoPe Control and Lifelining: Taking in rope (Fig.4)

This can be used in restricted passages and can hold greater loads than ordinary belaying (not shock loads). The danger with this process is the difficulty of paying rope out in a hurry whilst still controlling the rope. For paying out rope a Fig.'8' descendent is best as described, above; this is

less than ideal for taking in rope hence some combination is ideal. For example, the Fig.'8' is used to provide the final anchor but for taking in, a clogger between the Fig.'8' and the lead is used, with one man on each device. For tackle etc., the extra safety of the Fig.'8' could be dispensed with.

4. Stretcher Hauling (Fig.5)

This is an effective means of stretcher hauling which should be understood and preferably practised by everyone.

It is limited in the form shown to spacious level pitch head circumstances but could doubtless be modified to even fairly restricted pitch heads.

Method of Operation: Each person has a chest loop attached to a clogger at a convenient distance away. The man operating the Anchor device (Fig.8 shown) takes command and when he calls the haulers lean forward pushing their clogger ahead, the lead is taken by the anchor. The haulers then pull back giving a lift of about 3 feet; the anchor man passes the slack through the Fig '8' and repeats the process. If it is necessary to pay out rope the cloggers are held open and the rope controlled by the Fig.'8'.

NOTES:

- (i) Two people side by side could pull the same clogger - less cloggers:
- (ii) Extra people can still haul in the conventional manner instantly they are needed:
- (iii) Prussik knots may be used almost as effectively if cloggers are not available:

5. The Crowther Lift:

See N Dilly's article NL 60 July 1968.

This useful technique can be improved by the use of one or two cloggers instead of the prussik knots shown in this article.

CONCLUSION:

These methods are all useful to safe and efficient caving and rescue.

Cloggers cost £4.10s (£4.50) per pair.

Fig.'8' descendent costs 15/- (75p)

One set in party having anything to do with verticality underground should be considered as essential as the first aid kit which you all carry!

REFERENCES:

- (a) Alan Blackshaw © Mountaineering - Penguin.
Prussiking, indirect lifelining etc.
- (b) C H D Cullingford - Manual of Caving Techniques.
Climbing in Caves, Rescue, Ladders, etc.
- (c) Speleologist - Vol 2. Nos. 7, 8, 13.
'Verticle' Techniques; Prussiking, Abseiling, etc.
- (d) Descent Nos. 1, 3, 4, 10.
Descriptions of devices designed by F Petzal.
- (e) W S G Bulletin Vol.6 No.1 Jan/Feb '69.
Uses of 'Brake Blocks' (Cloggers)
- (f) SWCC NL No.60 June '68
The Crowther Lift.
- (g) SWCC - Miscellaneous Aids to Caving.
Self lifelining Devices - Bill Little.

Fig (1)

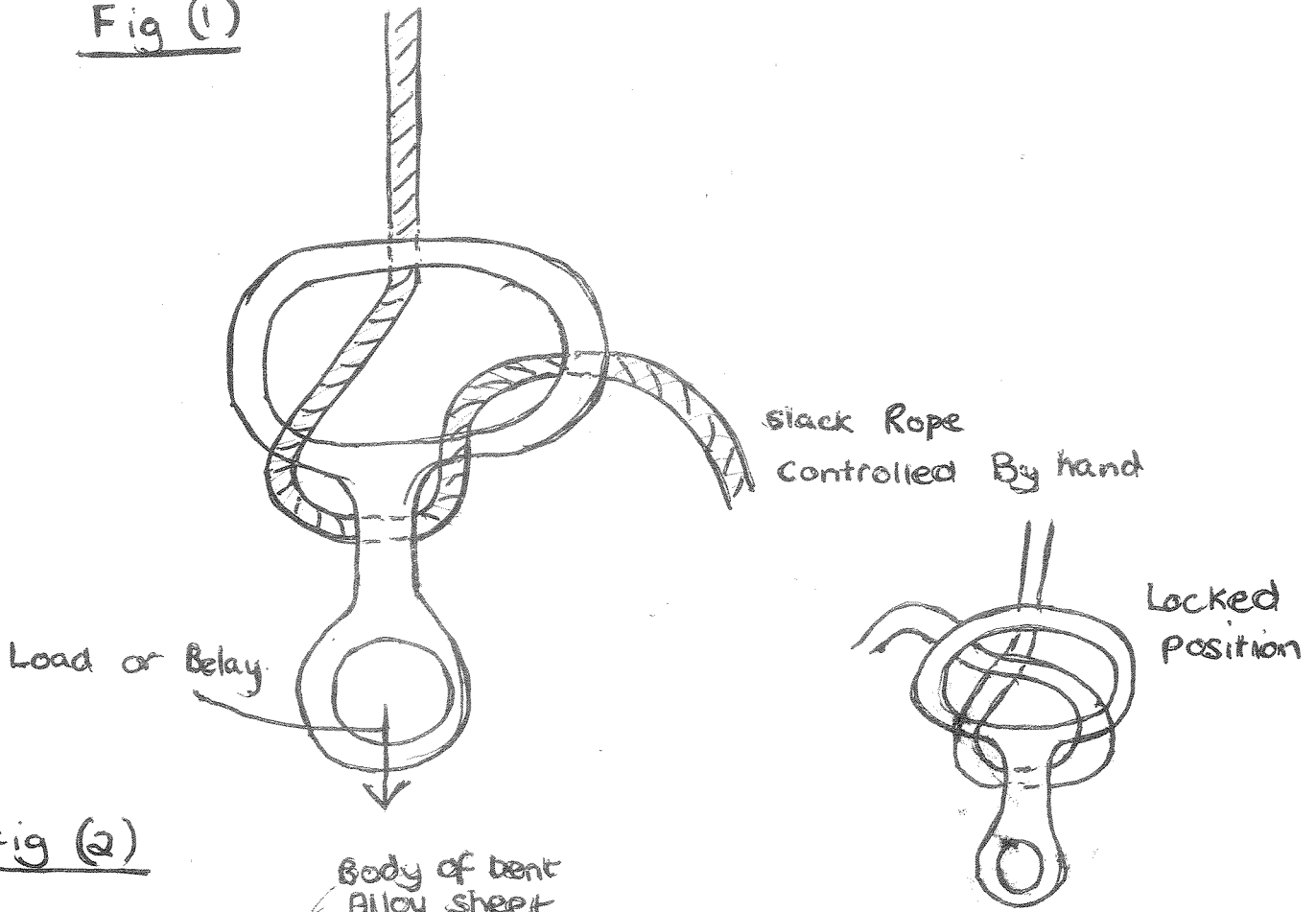


Fig (2)

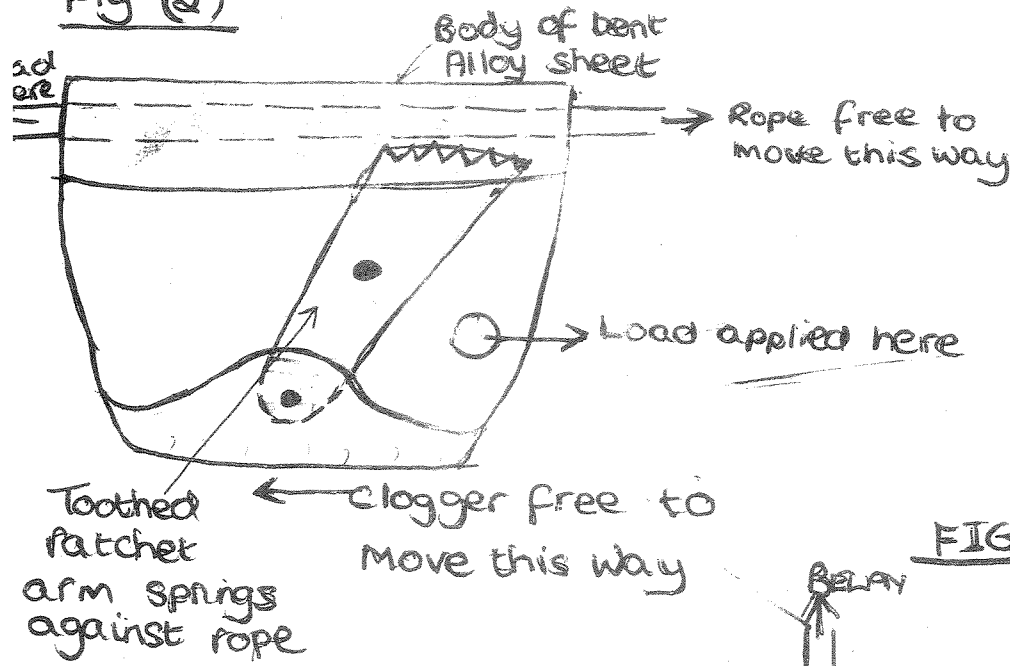


FIG (3 a)

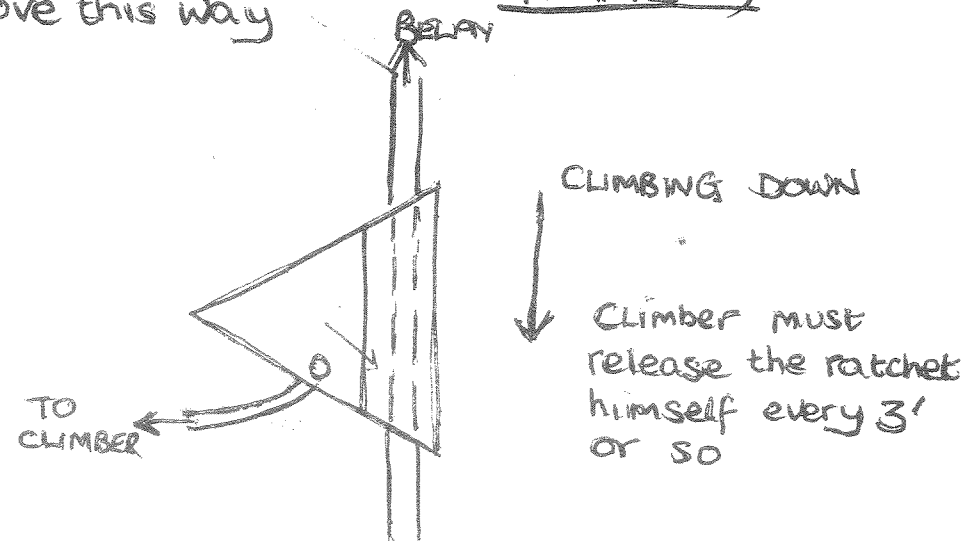
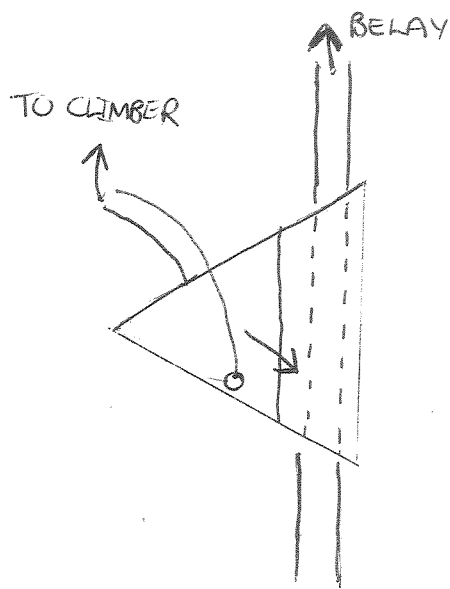


FIG 3 b)



Climbing Up
The ratchet
Slides itself.

FIG 4

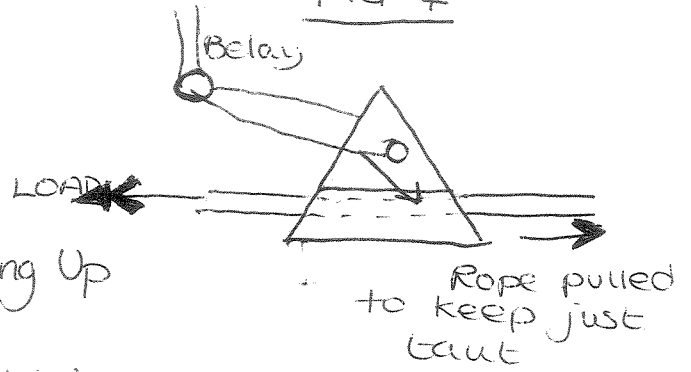
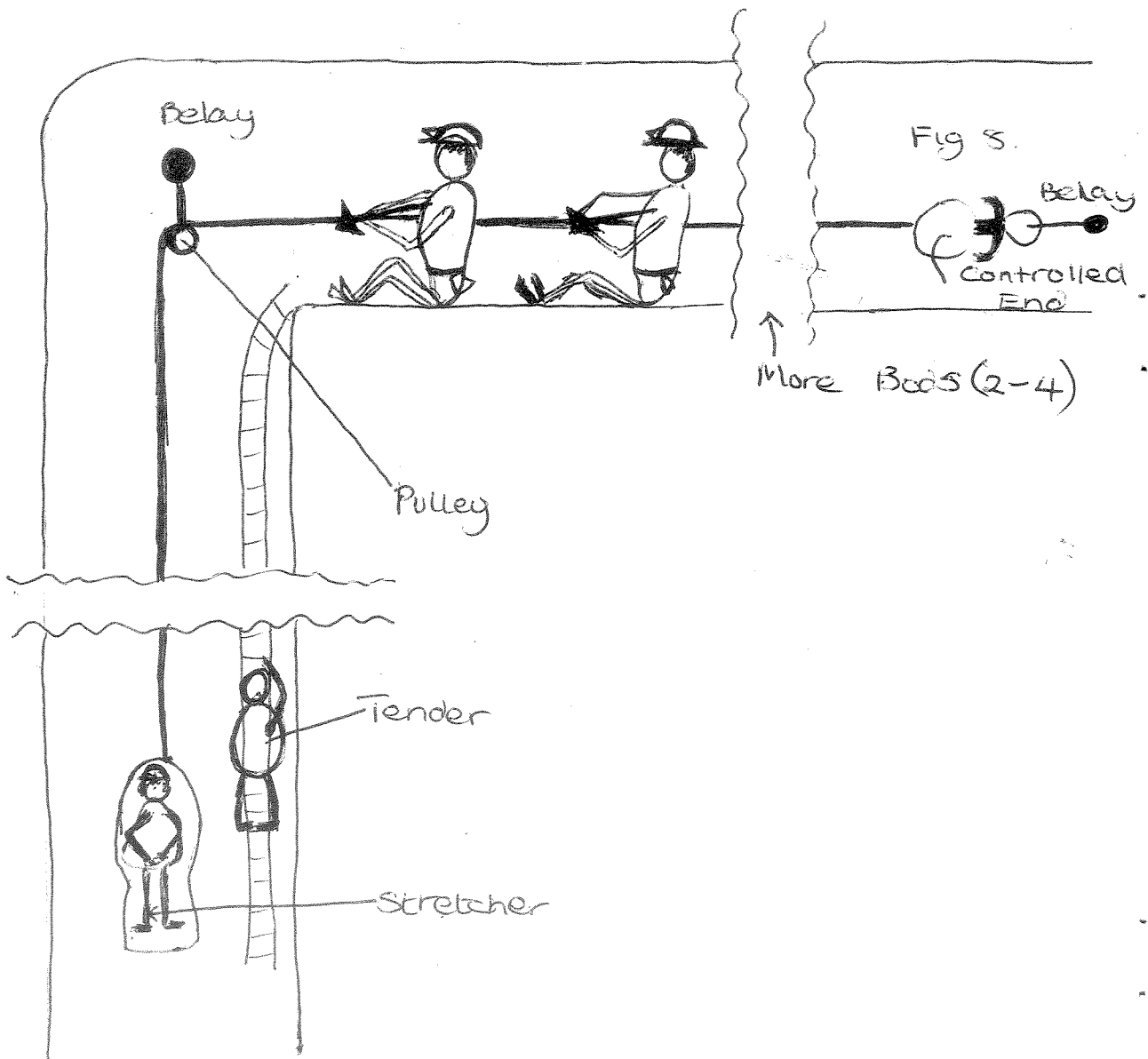


Fig 5



Ogof-y-Ci SSSI : The Location of the Caves and White Fish.

(Letters refer to the 6" map drawn for the Nature Conservancy by S H Iles)

A-Entrance of Ogof Rhyd Sych below the (dry) ford marked. In average weather all the Nant Glais water issues from underground here. In wet weather, water flows on the surface as well. Within the last 2 years this cave has been extended to E on the map 1/3 ml. away. At E it is blocked by an ancient roof fall which shows on the surface as a large collapse area, or doline. This has been excavated for 16ft and tapping communication established each way. The shaft was not then opened so as better to preserve the exceptionally fine stalagmites below and south of E. In the event of an accident it would have to be opened to release injured or trapped cavers. White fish have been seen in the cave stream below E. Water sinking near the Blaen-y-Glais ford probably constitutes part of this stream.

B-A resurgence on the west bank which is, or is near to, the 'spring' marked on the map. The water comes out of the 'wet' entrance of Ogof-y-Ci. This was the original entrance (ca.1946). The stream flows on the surface for some distance but gradually sinks in impenetrable fissures, to rise again, of course, at A. In flood, the fissures cannot absorb the water, and the river bed is wet below B. In heavy flood there is surface water above B as well.

C-The dry entrance discovered a few hours after B. No water flows into it even in heavy flood, and it leads directly to the stream passage of Ogof-y-Ci within 30ft. By far the easiest entrance and white fish are usually seen in the underground stream within a few hundred feet of this point. These are the specimens which are easily accessible and whose reporting resulted in the creation of the SSSI above them.

D-A surface station located by me on 18th May 1969 using a cave inductorphone; which lies vertically above a cave passage leading west from the main underground streamway. Nothing further is known west of this point until the general north-westward trend of the cave brings the main stream westward of it.

E-Surface collapse feature described above and first identified as coinciding with the northern end of Ogof Rhyd Sych by means of the cave inductorphone.

F-Furthest north to which the inductorphone could be taken in Ogof-y-Ci. The surface station was located on 18th May 1969, and the cave is at no great depth. The passage continues as a dry crawl under the barn front-door of Blaen-y-Glais and then becomes blocked with clay.

G-First sinking point of Glais stream, absorbing all the water in dry weather. With rain a little flows on to sink just after the 'Ford' nearby (now a footbridge), but in normal summer weather the surface bed is dry below this point.

A heavy fall of rain distributes water as follows:

Sink G fails to absorb all the water. The 'Ford' sink follows suit. Water sinks on the bend where the stream swings westwards immediately northwest of E. There are 3 distinct sinking points here, one of them leading to a small cave called Ogor Robin Goch, which lies on the corner where the stream turns from west to dead south. (The cave has been surveyed and it runs towards E, to end in a roof fall after a hundred feet or so. It contains only a trickle of water in normal weather, and no white fish have been seen in it). Surface water then proceeds to another sink about 100yds North of C, and this one can absorb a large volume. There is an excess only after heavy rain and the whole Glais surface bed is then active.

Underground hydrology of the Glais Valley:

Since there are so many sinks and at least 3 (so far) separate caves, the subterranean hydrology is complex. My hypothesis is that sink G feeds Ogor-y-Ci since that cave never floods to any degree. Ogor Robin Goch then takes water as described above; all remaining water then enters the Ogor Rhyd Sych system. The combined water finally emerges at the Rhyd Sych entrance. (It is believed that some water also reaches the northern end of Ogor Rhyd Sych at a point underneath E from a "quarry sink" at NGR O41.114.)

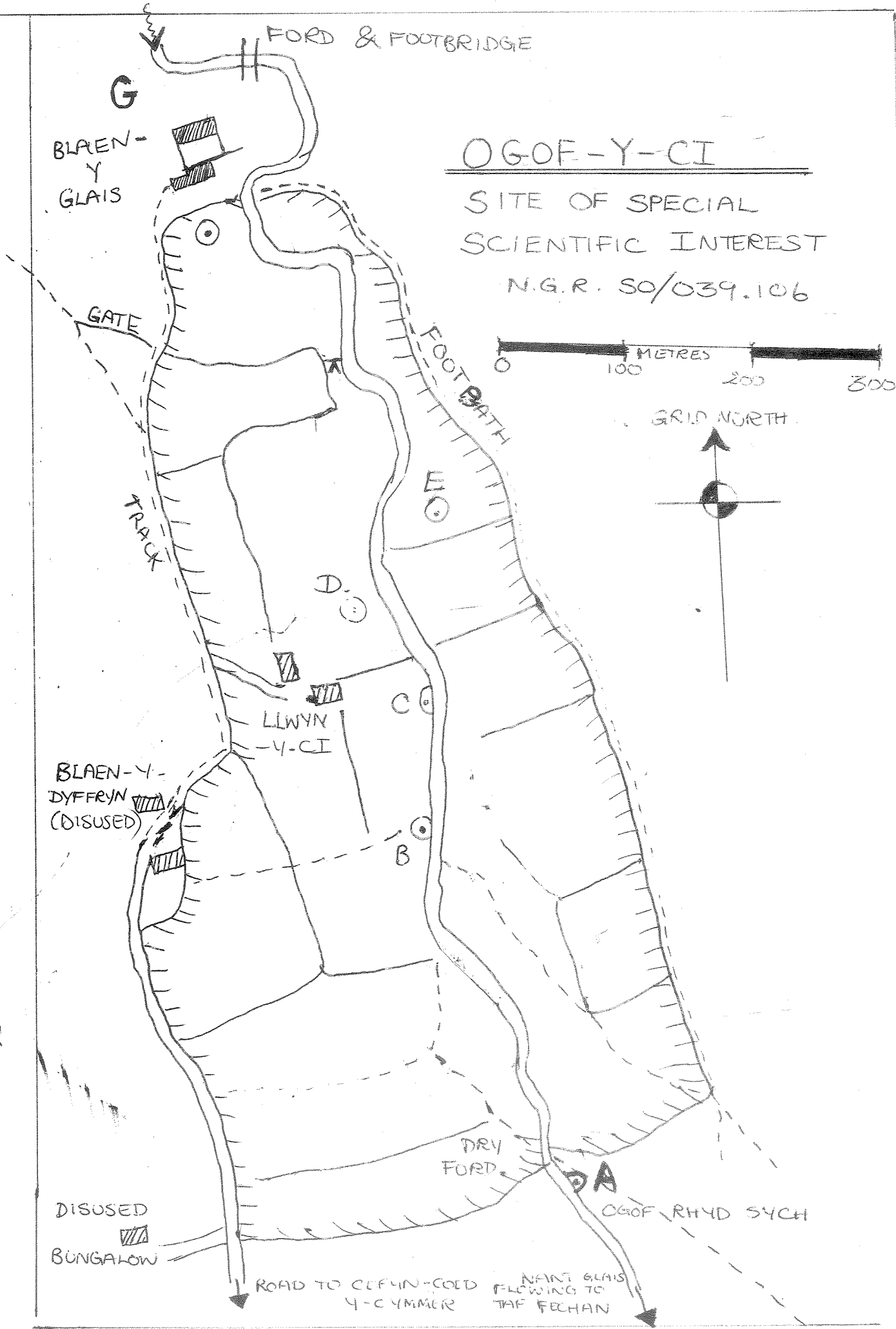
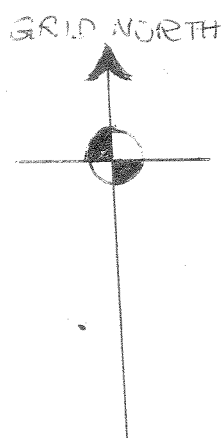
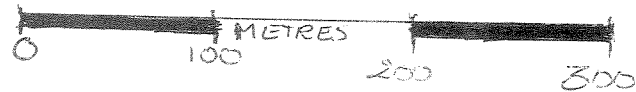
Fortunately all known parts of these caves lie within the Ogor-y-Ci Site of Special Scientific Interest designated by the Nature Conservancy. The total area covered by the systems is quite small and in view of its geological and zoological interest it deserves to be permanently protected.

MELVYN DAVIES

Cwmbran

11th January 1971.

OGOF-Y-CI
 SITE OF SPECIAL
 SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
 N.G.R. SO/039.106



Ogof-Yr-Ychen, A NEW CAVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ON CALDEY ISLAND
PEMBROKESHIRE.

Ogof-yr-Ychen was discovered early in 1970 by Brother James, a member of the Cistercian community at the Abbey, Caldey Island, in sea-ward-facing cliffs on the east side of the island. There seemed to be 2 entrances some 20ft apart and about 100 yards south of Nana's Cave, at NGR 21/1464.9693, but it was not then known that they led to the same cave, indeed both were mere wide 'rabbit holes' with a clay floor and a rock roof. There had been quarrying on the seaward side of the cave in the last century, and it is probable that part of the cave was then destroyed. Brother James uncovered the chamber I entrance, as it subsequently became known, which was on a small ledge, in the Spring, and showed me the site on May 28th. I detected a variable draught in both entrances, and a fishy smell from chamber I entrance which could well have originated in the bird guano near the second, or chamber 2, entrance.

Excavation commenced on 21st June by Brother James, Dick Keen of the Pembrokeshire County Museum, and myself, and it became apparent that the chamber I entrance was blocked by a boulder. Attempts to remove it only resulted in a 3 inch subsidence of roof. The loose slabs were prepped-up next day by Brother James and myself (Dick had fallen ill), and Brother James was able to crawl around the boulder into chamber I. In soft, brown cave earth he started digging on hands and knees, and soon came across animal bones. It then became clear that there was a low arch almost filled with cave earth at the NW end of chamber I, and this might communicate with another chamber. We cleared some of the earth and I was able to squeeze through, downwards into what became known as chamber 2. There on the NE side was a 'window' admitting daylight which proved to be the other entrance although too constricted at the time for anything but a small animal. At this stage Dick joined us again his illness having cleared up.

The floor of chamber 2 proved to be brown cave earth bare of any surface deposits except those left by recent small animals such as rats and rabbits. Work then continued on widening the squeeze linking the chambers, while I went outside the cave to fetch my camera and flash-gun in order to record the scene and, in particular, the floor of chamber 2 before it was disturbed. When I returned I found that Dick had uncovered part of a human cranium about 12 inches down in the cave earth and just inside chamber 2 from the squeeze. The exact site was recorded (Kodacolor X film, electronic flash), and after some general photographs Dick and I had to leave the site to catch the boat back to Tenby.

In the following week Brother James continued the excavation sometimes alone and sometimes with helpers from Tenby and district. On 30th June he wrote to tell me that in addition to more animal bones from chamber 1, later identified as Wild Ox (*Bos Primigenius*), he had discovered a human tibia and other human bones. Exciting news came on 4th July when he wrote to say that he had identified a human skull in a fissure running vertically upwards from the roof of chamber 1, to quote his own excited words "...looking up the fissure towards the west, to my amazement - just out of reach as yet - what do I see jammed

between rocks, the top and back side of a human skull, cracked in the middle, but most probably complete". I had noticed this fissure on 22nd June and identified a vertebra jammed in it, lightly cemented by stalagmite, but I had completely missed the skull. Brother James invited me to join him as soon as possible in order to get a photo of the skull 'in situ'. Within 3 days I had arranged with Robert A Kennedy Pembrokeshire County Curator, and Dick Keen to meet me at the cave and on 11th July we were in chamber 1 taking photographs, in black and white, and colour. (From that stage onwards I took advantage of every visit to Ogof-yr-Ychen to record photographically the progress of the excavation in great detail). Then came the difficult task of removing the skull without damaging it.

Robert and I climbed through a rift to a ledge above the skull, and there found more human bones, some of them cemented in stalagmite. These were photographed and the loose ones brought out. Meanwhile Brother James and Dick gently cleared the fissure and eased the fragile skull out of its ancient niche. It seemed that every bone in it was intact but Dick could not put it down for it was cracked along the crest, and the brain pan was almost full of clay - its own weight plus its contents would have burst it asunder. We all crawled out of the cave, Dick on knees and elbows, then he was helped up the rope on the cliff face. In the brilliant afternoon sunshine we photographed the aged object again from all angles, then allowed Dick to walk down to the Monastery with it where Brother James prepared a bed made from a box containing wood shavings moulded to the shape of the skull. Only then did Dick put it down. The skull is now known as skull A.

Extreme care was taken to maintain the skull in the head-down position in which it was found so that nothing would fall out of the brain pan via the eye sockets and other apertures. The remainder of the human material was then left untouched at this time.

Brother James, following a hunch after we had left, tackled the bottom, northern end of the system. He worked downwards from an overhang in daylight and broke into "an undisturbed Romano-British layer of occupation". As this was cleared a black space under a rock arch came into view - and chamber 4 was discovered. On 22nd July he wrote about the discovery and added that he had entered the chamber which was 12ft long, 4ft wide, and ending in a stalagmite slope out of which bones were protruding. The important thing was the chamber had been sealed off by the Romano-British deposits, and these comparatively late finds extended some way into the chamber. What lay underneath? 5 days later I was to find out when I returned to the Island.

In a 3 day stay on the Island I helped Brother James to excavate chamber 4, and we took it up to the foot of the stalagmite slope. My photographed sections showed Wild Ox bones and others, snail shells, and squid bone. Most of the identifiable material came from a depth of 1ft 7 inches in loose, dry, brown earth. Not content with this, Brother James opened a small trench in the entrance of Chamber 4 and, at a depth of 7ft below the original surface discovered a patinated flint flake, and a hyaena tooth.

In our spare time we had a look at the surface where the fissure of human skull A should break out into daylight.

Brother James' intuition suggested a likely spot on the surface to commence digging in order to meet the SE continuation of the fissure. In anticipation of this operation the Tenby group had laboriously cleared the shrubbery which obscured the cliff face at that point. My earliest photograph even shows a small tree which had to be uprooted. We commenced digging on 29th July and soon 2 holes appeared - one leading directly to skull A fissure, and the other vertically downwards to the floor of chamber 3 some 11 ft. below.

Now chamber 3 was a rift some 2 ft. wide leading vertically downwards for about 8 ft. from the south side of chamber 1. It had received no attention so far, but immediately it was obvious that any material falling from chamber 1 or down the skull A fissure would find a safe haven on the floor of chamber 3. Hence this chamber came to be known as the "Abyss" and prove to be a prolific source of material. As digging continued from the outside large animal bones appeared in the entrance of the skull A fissure, on the same level as the human remains only 5 ft. away inside the cave. Daylight fell on these fragments of humanity for the first time just as a jaw bone and huge leg bones of *Bos Primigenius* became exposed in the dig. Some of the material might also have been bison. One of the leg bones was so enormous that it was thought it could be rhinoceros, a view apparently supported when I examined bones of Woolly Rhinoceros in Tenby Museum later that night. However this theory was demolished by J. A. Bateman, Keeper of the Department of Zoology at the National Museum of Wales a month later.

After photographing all the bone finds I left the island again only to return within 3 days accompanied by Professor W. F. Grimes. He examined all the material thoroughly, and there was so much of it that had to be housed in the spacious attic of the Caldey Village Hall.

4 Weeks elapsed before Mr. Bateman was able to come to the site in person, and he made a preliminary identification of the bones found up to the 29th August, although his opinion will be subject to more detailed examination in the Museum when the bones have been transferred to his department. A brief summary of his initial examination is appended.

Brother James had to continue digging on his own for a while, but within 2 weeks had made further exciting discoveries. From chambers 2 and 4 he recovered half a human tibia and skull fragment in addition to small animal bones. A flint artifact turned up at the new entrance to chamber 3. Later an almost complete skeleton of wide boar was found deep in chamber 3, with just above it another human skull, but with part of its lower jaw missing. A jaw bone found weeks earlier 11 ft. higher in chamber 1 fitted neatly into the gap. This proved that the human material had fallen from chamber 1 aeons ago for it was 21 to 24 inches deep in the cave earth and clay, and the whole was capped with stalagmite up to 3 inches thick.

In association with the bones was a flint implement - a type of blade steeply dished along one side suggesting a Mesolithic age (Middle Stone Age). The skull became known as skull B.

My next visit to the island was on 3rd October in order to help complete the removal of the human bones from the roof fissure (i.e. skull A. fissure). This was accomplished while photos were taken at intervals. Then Brother James turned his attention to the rufaceous stalagmite on the floor of chamber 2. Almost immediately a third human skull (skull C.) appeared. From its position it probably belongs to the human material found at lower altitude in the bone layer of Chamber 4. 3 Weeks later I uncovered large rib bones, probably of Ox, from the same spot.

Which brings my story up to date. On 24th October it became possible for me to stay on the island for a whole week. The weather was mostly damp, but the rain was kept out by placing a sheet of corrugated iron over the upper shaft entrance of the cave which had been dug open a week previously by Brother James in order to lead to skull A fissure. I was joined by Peter Wilkins of Cwmbran Caving Club (who had experience of cave digs in Ogof Morfran), and he started off well by finding small human bones in chamber 3. A tooth of wolf and one of bear lay nearby. We then got down to measuring and marking out a section cut through the deposits in each of the 4 chambers of the cave. This operation occupied the best part of 3 days. New survey marks were painted on the cave wall to delineate future discoveries. At the end of my week probably the oldest find of all was made. At the bottom part of a pit dug outside the entrance of chamber 4, Brother James found part of the antler of a deer. This was loose in a rubblely, clayey layer which is believed to be only just post-glacial, and is 2ft. 9 inches deeper than the previous find of a tooth of hyaena and a fragment of antler earlier in November, and some of the pieces could be assembled to give an antler 18 inches long.

Digging will be continued in the floor of chamber 3 (skull B site), and northwards in chamber 2 (beyond skull C site). There are deep fissures in at least 2 places where other early post-glacial deposits may be found. The final report will probably be written by Professor Grimes as yet another section of his "Prehistory of Caldey" published by the Cambrian Archaeological Association.

MELVYN DAVIES,

Cwmbran,

9th November, 1970.

OGOF-YR-YCHEN, CALDEY, PEMBROKESHIRE

Preliminary identification of bones:

Notes taken while some of the bones were identified by Mr. J. A. Bateman, Keeper of the Department of Zoology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. These are tentative conclusions only and may be modified when the bones are fully examined in the Museum.

CHAMBER 1

A big leg bone - Ox (*Bos primigenius* is usual, but this interpretation may be changed later).

Vertebra - red deer from the neck of the animal. This bone was jammed in the fissure about 12 in below the complete skull (skull A) and appears in the foreground of the photographs taken on the day the skull was removed.

"Ball" of an ox leg bone.

Human jaw bone - this was evidently part of the complete skull from the fissure. Also in this human bone collection was a gnawed lower arm bone, a femur, an upper jaw, which was also part of the skull above, part of a pelvic girdle, a vertebra, and a rib which may not have been human.

The actual skull seemed to be an elderly female.

In another box in the collection was a mixture of ox and bison, the ox bones being from "a very big specimen".

1 small human bone possibly from a foot.

A coprolite apparently containing small mammalian bone fragments, possibly from a hyena.

2 teeth of badger.

A squid bone.

All the above are from the cave earth in chamber 1 which was overlain by a thin stalagmite layer, so thin that it could often be pulled away with the fingers, unless otherwise stated.

CHAMBER 2

A human cranium fragment, discovered at a depth of some 9 in by Dick Keen. A human tibia and rib bone, the tibia having apparently been split for the extraction of marrow.

1 ox foot bone.

CHAMBER 3

Arctic Hare bone - from the base layer outside the new entrance of Chamber 3.

CHAMBER 4

Outside chamber 4 entrance - a hyena tooth, and a rhinoceros tooth from the slope below the entrance picked up after rain.

Inside the chamber a young ox tibia and a molar of cave lion.

1 human arm bone and about 10 other bone fragments.

In the surface Romano-British layer of the chamber - mussel shells up to 9cm long, charcole, a jaw of fox, snail shells, fish bones and a tooth of boar.

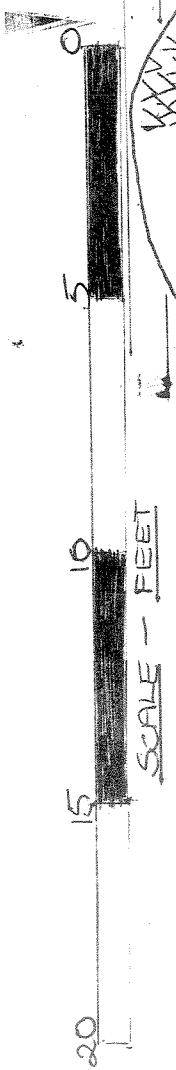
In another box a "Gravettian" (?) flint point, and a roe deer foot bone.

Recorded 29th August, 1970, Melvyn Davies, 18 Tymynydd, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran.

(Issued by ICI Fibres Speleology Section, Pontypool, Monmouthshire Tel 2420, Ext. 131)

OGGOF-YR-YCHEN

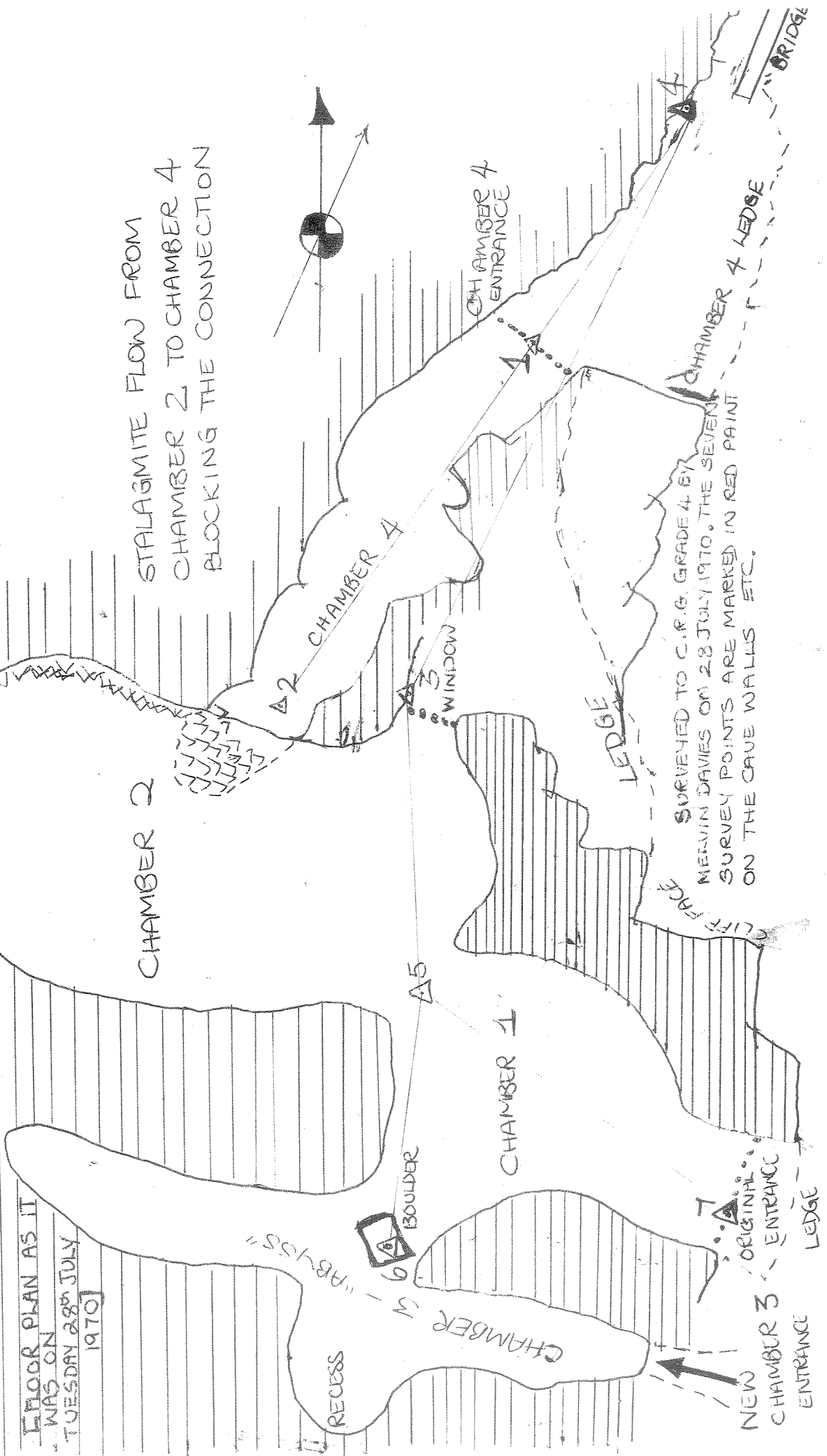
CALDEY ISLAND, PEMBROKESHIRE
N.G.R. 21/1464, 9693



Δ1 IS APPROX. 25 FT. ABOVE H.W.M.O.T.

FLOOR PLAN AS IT WAS ON TUESDAY 28th JULY 1970

STALAGMITE FLOW FROM CHAMBER 2 TO CHAMBER 4 BLOCKING THE CONNECTION



CLUB NEWS

1. We welcome the following new members:-

John S. Ace, 57 Ynys-Wen, Pen-y-Cae, Swansea.
Rex A Hendricksen, 55 Pembroke Road, Canton, Cardiff. CF5 1GQ
John Harper, 140 Stringes Lane, Willenhall, Staffordshire.
C. Howard Kenney, Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells, Somerset.
John D. Kingdom, 31 Rockingham Terrace, Briton Ferry, Neath.
Leslie I. Rees, 137 Kings Road, Canton, Cardiff, CF1 9DE.
Margaret Stuart, 10 Nash and Cox, Milkwall, Coleford, Gloucestershire.
Barbara and John Paul Tedd, 26a Upper Heath Road, St. Albans, Herts.
John Williams, 5 Tan-y-Waun, Fenrhos, Ystradgynlais.
V. Peter Williams, 202 Cathedral Road, Pontcanna, Cardiff.

We also welcome the return of Frank Salt, 27 Millmead Lodge,
275 Wake Green Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

2. Congratulations are due to many members - I only hope I have not missed anyone out.

Congratulations to Judy and Mick Day on the birth of their daughter, Caitlin, in January.

Congratulations to Jenny and Jerry Wolff on the birth of their son, Daniel, in December.

Congratulations to Su and Paddy O'Reilly on the birth of their son, Finbarr, in January.

Congratulations to Vicki and Roger Smith on the birth of their daughter Hilary, in January.

And, as a change, congratulations to Gerry Aldridge on his engagement to Sheila Turner.

3. Brian Jones, Elf Jones, Peter Francis and Howard Kenney have all been elected onto the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I leaders' list.

4. Keys. The lock to the front doors of the headquarters will shortly be changed. One key will then unlock the doors to cottages nos.

4, 6 and 9. A second key will unlock the doors to cottages nos. 1, 3 and 5.

There is now a bunch of keys, to be held by the duty officer, one for each locked door at the headquarters. Will duty Officers please make sure that doors are locked before they leave - or make sure that someone ill be leaving later will see to them.

5. Hut fees are to be made out in decimal coinage. Members 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, Visitors 20p, and members' children under 10 6p. This is no change.

6. Before you visit Tunnel Cave - now Cathedral Cave to tourist - please make sure that you have read the access rules displayed on the noticeboard at the headquarters. Permit cards are required for the lower entrance, and the book at the Show cave office must be signed before you enter and after you leave the cave if you intend to use the lower entrance.

If you are only using the top entrance then you don't need to sign the book, nor need you have a permit card. But, be warned, there is now a lock on the top entrance and there will be a locked gate stopping you from going to Davy Prince's Hall. The key to this inner gate will be the same key as for the lower entrance.

7. Change of Address:

Hywel Ball, 17 Devonshire Road, Aberdeen.

Roger and Liz Flaherty, Plot 16, Bishwell Park Estate, Gowerton, Swansea.

Bruce Foster, P.O. Box 85, Mzuzu, Malawi.

Peter Harvey, 42 Bryn Heulog, Rhayader.

Dave Judson, c/o City Architect's Officer, P.O. Box 488, Town Hall
Manchester, M60 2JT.

Peter Ogden, Lower Farm, Lower Claverham, Nr. Bristol.

Idris and Dot. Williams, Glen Cottage, Holden Lane, Ruyton of the
Eleven Towns, Shropshire.

Jenny and Jerry Wolfe, 5 Alfreda Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

8. The Dan yr Ogof management have asked that no exploration of side passages is carried out in the show caves without special permission. Please see that you comply with this new rule.

Hafod Pentwyn,
Treharris. GLAM.

To The Editor:

Baby Bulge

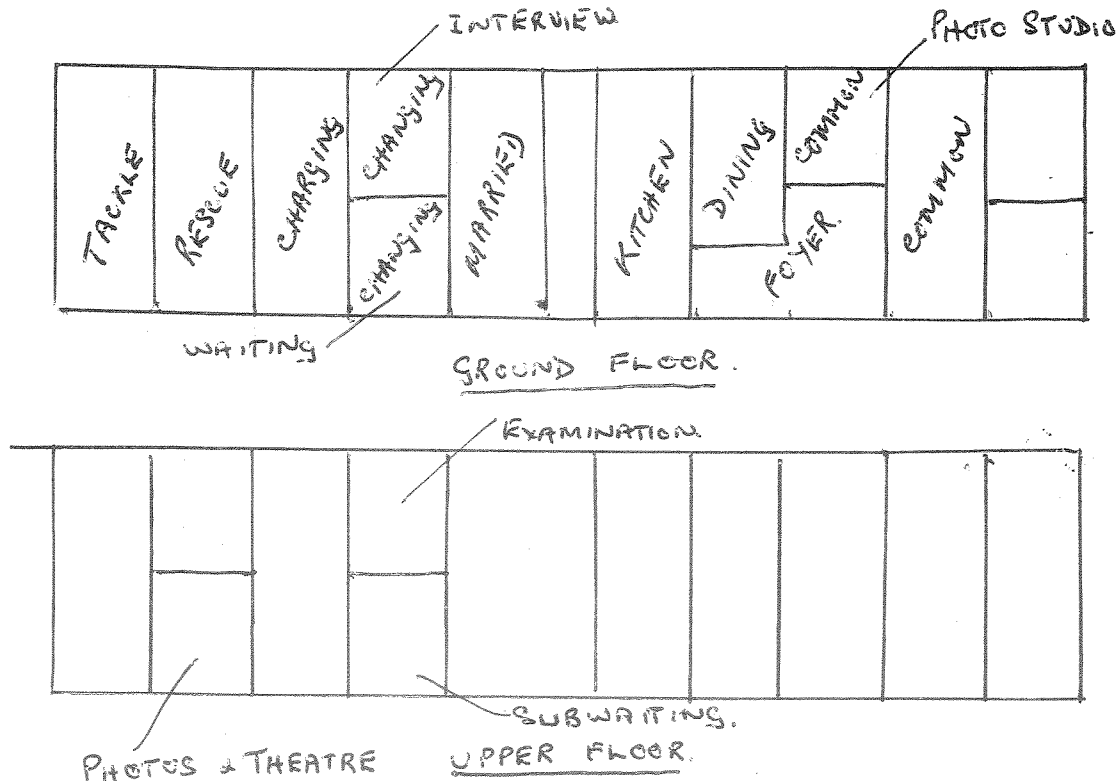
I feel I must make some comments on the letter from Paddy O'Reilly in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Firstly, one can be fairly certain of Paddy's future intentions in view of the adaptations he proposes be made to the club premises, because these, when completed, will not be readily re-converted and so must be intended to be used some years if not for ever.

My main reason in writing, however, is to urge prevention rather than cure. We should co-operate in the European Conservation year and keep the status quo. Surely we don't want Penyllt to turn into a teeming Calcutta.

The counter proposals I make would also have the advantage that rooms used for one purpose for an evening, two week-ends a month could revert to their present use without difficulty.

Herewith another plan of the cottages, which will be self explanatory:-



As you can see I suggest brushing out the changing rooms and putting the clag therein, once a fortnight, onto a bonfire. We could then put tables, chairs and benches in place and await representatives from the local branch of the Family Planning Association on alternate Friday evenings. Following these sessions the rooms could return to their present state of squalor which I imagine would not take more than an hour or so the following morning. Both Ladies and Gentlemen would be welcome to attend these clinics and, in fact, they might result in an increase of bed nights. They may even result in a more intensive use of beds - day and night shifts with a corresponding enormous increase in revenue.

As a back up service one would also have to make provision perhaps for semi-surgical sessions also to be held - for the "loop" and vasectomies. These procedures could be carried out in the Laboratory which would need little adaptation beyond a larger table - a door on trestles would do - the use of this room once every six weeks would hardly inconvenience anyone.

I submit that the above is a clear case for Prevention; the main reasons being:-

1. No structural alterations
2. Minimum inconvenience
3. A real service to members
4. Possible increase in cottage takings as a result of more visitors (Bill will be delighted)
5. The service would be paid for by the recipients but with a small constitutional charge; the Club Committee could refer troublesome cases for compulsory treatment at club expense.

In the meantime to cope with the present situation -

How about a couple of ex-B.R. Goods waggons parked outside - cheap, lockable, large, dry, soundproof, etc. They could later be converted into de-luxe mountain top changing rooms if not already converted to fireweed by the little ones.

With regard to equipment - what about supplying practical toys such as old hammers, shovels, ropes, ladders and leached out gelignite etc. This could have the effect of making our problem self limiting.

Future Cave Rescue First Aid practices will, of course, include emergency childbirth until the present bulge is over. Arrangements could also be made for those interested to have courses in Baby Care.

P.S. I note from the Newsletter that in between whiles the Laboratory can also be used as a photographic darkroom. How about a series of "Penwyllt Pets" - proceeds to go to Rescue, of course.

Yours etc.,

R M WILLIAMS

FROM THE LOGBOOK

OGOF FFYNON DDU:

A number of maypeling trips at the end of III have proved fruitless. All the avens closed down immediately, except the wall aven which gave access to a few feet of very tight reef tube.

Several odd lengths of passage have been found in II. Werthy of mention are:-

- (1) The inviting looking passage which comes in near the reef on the left just past the crevasse ladder pitch has been maypeled. It leads to about 300 feet of well decorated passage climbing steeply, ending in a small North-South passage choked with mud at both ends.
- (2) About 800 feet of passage has been found North of Piccadilly. It is well decorated and carries a draught, but there is no obvious way on.

DAN-YR-OGOF:

Tests have shown that parts of Dan-yr-Ogef I beyond Shower Aven are very close to Gerrad Platten Hall. A dig has been started at this point. Some blasting has taken place and as a result of this the area is now in a dangerous condition and should, therefore, be avoided.

OTHER SITES:

Rhessilli - Gower:

A small hole has been found which gives access to a 40 feet shaft with 40 feet of well decorated passage at the bottom. Exploration is still in progress.

THE FFYNNON DDU PROBLEM AND RELATED TOPICS

At the last A.G.M. of S.W.C.C. (1970) you were kind enough to give me a mandate to take all necessary steps to save Ogof Ffynnon Ddu from damage due to quarrying. My first step was to set up a small conservation committee comprising Eric Inson, Paddy O'Reilly, and Alan Stephens with myself as chairman and secretary. This was very necessary in order to ensure that nothing was overlooked. From time to time we sought advice from other members of the club wherever this was appropriate, and also from the Club's solicitors.

During the course of the year I have had detailed discussions and meetings with the Nature Conservancy and Forestry Commission Officials and believe that sooner or later progress will be made for the long term protection of the cave. Following the letter to the Welsh Office concerning our problem I received a reply to the effect that "the government is now aware of the importance of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu".

Last July I spoke to the Area Manager for Hobbs Quarries and he informed me that drilling samples from the Wern Land had proved unsatisfactory and that it was going to be necessary to look elsewhere for the limestone they required. Repeated letters to the Quarry Company requesting written confirmation of verbal assurances have been ignored.

During the course of the year it has been necessary to ascertain that in the event of the Club appealing for funds, such funds would not be subject to income tax. It is with pleasure that I can say that the Club is now recognised as a registered charity. This may one day prove to be of very great importance if we ever have to appeal for funds for purchase of land or mineral rights. This recognition was achieved for us by the past work of Les Hawes and we are all indebted to him as he has acquired this status for us.

At a time when we felt that we might be able to achieve land or mineral rights purchase we looked into the possibility of setting up a Trust to administer any funds we collected.

Following advice received from our solicitors and also that from some of our better informed members it was decided not to pursue this approach. Instead, an Appeal Fund was envisaged and the necessary ground work for this has been done should we have to follow this line of action.

The Forestry Commission, owners of the Wern, were not prepared to sell land to the Club at the time nor were the Selica Brick Company prepared to sell their mineral rights.

Whilst the Ffynnon Ddu situation has been watched closely, I have spent much time probing into the claims we have made for Common Rights in our area. The problem has been a very complex one and our claims have been challenged by the Commons Association in Brecon. In the light of my researches I have been forced to withdraw some of our claims whilst retaining Common Rights within Hobbs' quarry. In the near future, a Commons Commission will be appointed to confirm the various claims, and I think that our claim within the Hobbs Quarry will be upheld. There is the question of land ownership of quarry and on your behalf I have raised an objection to the body claiming ownership. In this objection we are at one with the Commissioners Association. I will attempt to clarify the Commons problem in a Newsletter article at a later date.

I have also taken an interest in the workings of the National Caving Association and Cambrian Caving Council. Clearly at a time when the club may need assistance from such sources I have felt it imperative that they are not ignored. Last May, I explained our problems to the Cambrian Caving Council at a meeting in Shropshire. The various club representatives at the meeting all expressed grave concern,

and elected me as their "Conservation Officer" so that I could use that title should it prove necessary. So far I have not needed to press the case too strongly other than in "behind the scenes" discussions. Too much publicity would have done more harm than good.

Paddy O'Reilly was given a Kodak award in order to produce a history of photographs taken in O.F.D. Application for this award was on his initiative since it was recognised earlier last year that it would be essential to have a comprehensive set of photographs should the cave ever have to face up to public enquiry. At this stage I really must pay a tribute to Paddy in particular for much hard work this year, and also to his surveying team for producing the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu Survey. The survey itself has achieved what a host of letters from me could never have done, and it was published just at the right time.

Recently, Hobbs filed an application to quarry Twyn-y-Ffald and following a special meeting of our conservation committee in Swansea I prepared a letter objecting to the application. It was necessary to object on two accounts: (1) our access to the club as laid down by our title deeds was threatened and (2) the effect of a new quarry on Craig yr Nos as a whole. Once the word got around I understand some 29 objections were eventually received by the planning officer in Brecon. The planning Committee have deferred their decision until its meeting next June. Meanwhile I have authorised our solicitors to negotiate with Hobbs Quarries to legalize a right of access to the club via the railway crossing.

Relations with local landowners have been good over the year, and Mr. David Lloyd - managing director of Crewst Estates was taken to Pant Mawr with a large party about the middle of 1970. He enjoyed his trip and looks forward to a further caving trip in the future. I understand that at present Crewst are unlikely to pose the club with access problems.

I would like to thank the very many club members who have rendered me assistance over the year. Many of them are those who would be regarded as "inactive". It is too often forgotten that many of the caves of yesterday can still offer great service to the club through their own personal contacts and professional expertise. I have the hope that the present generation of caves will prove as faithful to speleology as those of the past. Lastly, but not least I would like to thank the members of my mini committee for acting as a sounding board in deciding conservation policy for O.F.D. My thanks also go to your main committee, for allowing me a free hand.

Our battle is nowhere near finished. The work of the past year must carry on to completion since otherwise sooner or later Ogof Ffynnon Ddu will be seriously damaged by quarrying. We are fortunate at present that there is no immediate threat to the system, but there is a great temptation to believe that our cave will always be there and that no threat exists.

I ask you once again to renew the mandate you gave me last year in the hope that our ultimate aims will be achieved.

Roger Smith.

Note

During the course of the year I have either written to or had discussions with:

Area Manager (Hobbs Quarries)

Curator (Brecon Museum)

Messrs Jeffries and Powell (Commons Solicitors)

The Land Registration Office, Brecon

The Welsh Office - Sec. of State; Mr. T. M. Thomas - Regional Geologist.

Messrs Edwards Geldard and Shepherd (Clubs Solicitors)

British Rail - Surveyors Dept.
C.C.P.R. - Technical Representative
Mr. David Lloyd (Crewr Estates)
Forestry Commission, Land agent and conservators
Nature Conservancy, land agent and deputy regional officer, and Dr. Black -
chief geologist.
Solicitors - Penwyllt Silica BriK.
Professor W. Rees - expert on Gt. Forestry of Brecon
Ystradgynlais R.D.C.
" Parish Council
Glantaire " "
National Trust
Glamorgan Water Board.

Many of the above have necessitated personal visits and I have also
visited the National Newspaper Library at Collindale.

