

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Gwyn Arms on Easter Sunday 1954, the following officers and committee were elected:-

President. F.J.North, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.S.A.
Vice-Presidents. E.A.Glennie, C.I.E., D.S.O.
A.H.Hill.
Chairman. Dr.E.Aslett.
Hon. Secretary. W.H.Little.
Hon. Treasurer. G.O.Thomas.
Hon. Editor &
Records Officer. D.W.Jenkins.
Tackle Manager. P.I.W.Harvey.
Cave Rescue Organiser. C.E.Hill.
Cottage Warden. D.G.Hunt.
Committee Members. Mrs.P.E.Millward, J.Barrows, W.Ashford Price.
Honary Members. J.L.Morgan, T.Ashwell Morgan, C.Powell, Mrs.G.Price,
Mr.and Mrs.J.Barrows, Dr.A.J.R.Hudson.

Secretary's Report. 1953/1954.

Not since 1946 has the club had such a successful year as the one just ending, not only because of the major discoveries, but also because we have succeeded in attracting many new young members necessary to replace those older people who have gradually lost interest in caving in the last year or two.

Membership now stands at over eighty paid-up members, the highest in the club's history, and by the number of applications awaiting approval, the upward trend will continue.

By far the most interesting discovery has been Tunnel Cave which was the result of several weekends work by different people. Exploration is by no means complete, and we find that after climbing about 130 feet in Cascade Aven, we now have to carry in scaling tackle which will prove a difficult task.

We have to thank that fearless pair Aslett and Clarke for breaking through the Boulder Choke in Pant Mawr Pothole and finding what may prove to be Britains most spacious passage. It is disappointing that such a fine cave ends in such a miserable sump. Members of the Cave Diving Group have indicated their intentions of paying it a visit. Those who have been to Pant Mawr since the new extension was discovered are aware of the condition of the Boulder Choke, and I ask all of you to take the greatest care when negotiating this part of the cave.

The link-up between Pant Canol and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu last August showed us how near the first explorers of Pant Canol must have been to their real goal. Other discoveries of note include the ascent of Bat Aven and the dig in Coronation Chamber.

All these new discoveries have induced several clubs to visit us, and since the New Year no fewer than five parties have spent

weekends at the cottage. Although these visitors mean added revenue for us it also means extra work for the active members in showing people around. It has been recently suggested that members should be circularised to find out who is willing to share this sometimes boring job. Your committee has been unwilling to take these measures but there may come a time when we shall call for assistance in this way.

You have all heard of the closing of Llyged L'wchwr by the local Water Board. Mr. Arthur Hill has spent much time in the past month making enquiries and has found that the cave was closed on the advice of the Welsh Board of Health. We now intend making a protest to that Authority with the support of other interested parties.

The traverse wires and fixtures in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu have been examined and it was found necessary to renew the wire on the first traverse. It had worn where it passed through the middle Rawlbolt.

There was a good attendance at our Second Club Dinner held in Cardiff last October, but this was mainly due to the Southern General Meeting of the Cave Research Group being held the same day.

It is understood that one of our Vice-Presidents Mr Arthur Hill and his wife are leaving South Wales to take up residence in London. We take this opportunity of wishing them good luck and we hope we will see them on many future occasions.

We all heard with regret of the death of Mr. David Price. He had been a member of the club since its formation and he was always interested in caving activities. It has been decided to perpetuate his memory by naming the main passage of Tunnel Cave, Davey Price's Hall.

D.G.Hunt.

Treasurer's Report.

See page 3.

Cave Rescue Organisation.

C.E.Hill reports that the poor response in returning the forms which he sent out is very disheartening. Unless he has more support he will be unable to make final arrangements with the police. Will all members please return these important forms, completed, to:-
C.E.Hill, "Penlee", Hool Caerhwys, Rhwbina, Nr. Cardiff.

You never know, YOU may need the Cave Rescue Organisation yourself one day!!

A months notice will be given of Cave Rescue Organisation practices.

Joint Membership Subscription.

In future husband and wife will be able to have a joint

South Wales Caving Club. Receipts and Payments Account 1953/54.

	£	s	d
To subscriptions 10/- in advance	46	5	0
Donations	1	10	0
Annual Dinner	25	0	0
Cheque for milk		10	6
Cottage Fees	43	10	6
Cottage Fees 52.	3	5	8
Interest Trustees Savings,	2	11	6
	<u>122</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>

	£	s	d
By circulars 52, 53	4	0	6
circulars 53, 54	12	7	6
Duplicating machine	4	13	6
Club Notopaper	5	3	6
Rope Ladder	3	10	0
Coronation Sub.	2	2	0
C.R.G. Sub.	1	5	0
Annual Dinner	28	13	6
D. Hunt milk.		10	6
Mrs. Hibbert.	2	2	0
Cottage Expenses.	2	17	8
Electric Light	8	13	4
Coal	3	12	0
Gas	2	2	0
Parrafin	2	10	0
Sundries		0	6
C.R.O.		7	0
Hon. Records Officer	1	8	4
Hon. Treasurer.	1	8	0
Flowers. D. Price.	2	2	0
	<u>89</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>

To balance at Easter 1953.		£	s	d
Treasurers Float		5	0	0
Secretaries Float		5	0	0
Records Float		1	10	0
Trustees Savings Bank		51	10	0
Current Account		12	10	8
		<u>76</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
Total		£199-3-10		

To balance Easter 1954.		£	s	d
Treasurers Float		2	3	0
Secretaries Float		5	0	0
Records Float		1	10	0
Trustees Savings Bank		59	1	6
Current Account		41	11	2
		<u>109</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Total		£199-3-10.		

4.

subscription of 15/- per annum. One copy only of each newsletter will be issued in these cases.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members are reminded of Rule 6 in view of the fact that subscriptions for the year 1954/55 are now due. Rule 6 states:-

Any member who is more than four months in arrears in payment of subscription, shall be deemed to have ceased membership, and shall not be eligible for re-election until payment of arrears has been made.

Subscriptions should be sent as soon as possible to:-

G.O.Thomas, 5, Farmville Road, Splott, Cardiff.

Newsletters, Circulars and "Our Caves".

Members are informed that there are no old copies of circulars and "Our Caves" available. There are still some spare copies of Newsletters Nos. 4, 6, and 7. available.

Change of address.

The following changes of address are noted:-

M. J. Charles. 12, Greenway, Great Sagghal, Cheshire.
C. E. Hill. Penlee, Heol Caerhwys, Rhwbina, Cardiff.

Headquarters.

Now occupying one-wall of the "dining room" is the large scale plan of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu (final edition). Will members please assist in keeping this clean. The shelf above is for records only. The hut warden has been presented with the "specialist" and a new piece of apparatus has now been installed in the outhouse.

Whitsun.

During the Whitsun meet trips will be made to suit the parties and the weather to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Pant Mawr, Tunnel Cave and Dan-yr-Ogof beyond the lakes. Final arrangements will depend on the support of members and guests.

Leaders for Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

Leaders are needed for the following dates:-

Whitsun--Craven Pothole Club.
July 3rd. Bradford Pothole Club.
September 3rd. Birmingham Cave and Crag Club.

Publication.

Cave Research Group publication No.6. is of special interest to all cavers who visit South Wales. It is called "The Ogof Ffynnon Ddu System" and in it the author deals with the discovery and exploration of the cave. C.L.Railton then goes on to give an account of his survey of the cave and to put forward a theory of the development of the system. Included in the publication is a copy of the survey both plan and section.

This excellent publication can be obtained from, The Cave Research Group of Great Britain. 34, Alexandre Rd., Leamington Spa, Warcs. The price is 6/6d post free.

Cave Research Group of Great Britain.

Southern General Meeting. Axbridge, June 12th, 1954.

The meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Axbridge, at 5.0.p.m. The programme will be as follows:-
Professor E.K.Tratman, M.B.E. Vertical Development in some Irish Caves.
J.H.D.Hooper, B.Sc. A report on recent work on Bats in South Devon.
E.Humphrey, "Ochre Cavern"- a colour film.

The meeting will end about 7.30.p.m. Details of accommodation can be obtained from the Hon.Sec. S.W.C.C.

In conjunction with the above meeting the following caving trips have been arranged for the 13th. June. Details will be announced at the meeting.

G.B.Cave. (U.B.S.S.) - open day. Party to meet at 11.0.a.m. at cave.

St.Cuthbert's Swallet (B.E.C.) Maximum of 10 (preference given to Non-Mem dip cavers). R.V. 9.30. a.m. at the Belfry (changing facilities available). This trip will last 8-9- hours, and involves pitches of 25, 29, 40, 15 and 15 feet. The cave will be inaccessible if wet. Photographers must not use flash powder.

Other caves according to demand.

Northern General Meeting. Masonic Hall, Settle, Yorks, July, 10th.

The programme will consist of the following papers:-
Dr. Marjorie Sweeting, M.A. The Karst District of Yugoslavia.
Jack Myers, B.Sc. Cavern Formation in the Northern Pennines.

Further details later. Accommodation can be booked at the Golden Lion Hotel, Settle. A caving trip will be arranged by the Northern Pennine Club on Sunday, July, 11th.

Fluorescein. Through the good offices of the C.R.G. supplies of fluoresceine are now available in 12oz. blocks (3/- post paid) for water testing subject to the permission of the authorities concerned with the water which may be affected by it. Details of all results positive or negative must be sent to the Hon.Sec.. Specially approved schemes involving large amounts may be granted with a free issue. Application for supplies or further details may be had from the Hon.Sec. S.W.C.C. (except C.R.G. members).

Forthcoming Events.

A camping meet will take place in the Neath Valley in June. Will all interested members contact the Hon Sec for dates and other details.

Summer Holidays.

Dai Hunt is leading a two weeks digging trip to **Ffrydiau Twrch** during the last two weeks of July. There will be **barra** accomodation. Several attempts have been made in the past to **gain** entry into this remarkable resurgence. Failure so far is **probably due** to the lack of concentrated effort in the right spot. For further details please contact Dai Hunt.

Tunnel Cave.

The entrance to this cave is now fitted with a gate and is locked. This is intended only for the sake of preservation. Use of the key which is hanging on the headquarters notice board is free to all members and visitors to the club. Please return it to its place and don't get locked in.

New Members.

We welcome the following new members to the club:-

T.K. Ball. "Bronderi", Peniel St., Llansemllet, Swansea.

J.A. Cole-Morgan, 48, Eaton Crescent, Swansea.

D. Kemp. 34, Scarsdale Villas, London. W. 8.

Miss. A. Ockenden. Brookside, Ponthir, Caerleon, Mon.

S.C.L. Phillips. Coolgreany, Malpas, Newport, Mon.

The Discovery and Exploration of Tunnel Cave.

Dec. 27th. 1953 - May. 1954.

Tunnel Cave has been known for many years as one of the smallest of our caves and it was seldom visited. At the entrance is a dam making entry rather awkward. The entrance passage is circular in section, about four feet across, and winds about for some 150ft. In very wet weather the passage is liable to be sealed off by water as the dam is higher than the roof. At the end is a small chamber and a boulder choke through which a strong draught passes in or out according to the outside temperature.

It was on a warm day last August that notice was taken of the draught and an attempt was made to remove some of the boulders but we were driven out by the smoke from the explosion. Owing to the discoveries at Pant Mawr the cave was neglected until November. As the days grew much shorter, Tunnel Cave being much nearer than Pant Mawr came in for further attention. Several weekends were spent in clearing a passage through the boulders the debris being packed in stream passage. At the end of the days operations on the Sunday before Christmas a black space could be seen above but much too small to get through.

On December 27th after a few hours work a large passage was entered, though due to smoke no one could say just how large it was. Eventually it was found to average 25ft in width and starts off 10ft in height rising to 45ft. in the length of 150 yards. This passage has since been named Davy Price's Hall. Halfway along where the stream

crosses a wide shingle bank, there is a pool under the right hand wall with a small passage visible under the water. It has proved to be a wet weather rising and it appears to be the main tributary stream in times of flood. Further along, the stream winds between banks of mud, which contain many drip markings, or 'mud roses'. Members are asked to walk in the stream to preserve these stretches of mud, one of which in the main chamber has been taped off. On the right hand side of the hall is a balcony with a tight aven leading off it. At the top is a small chamber containing a very fine crystal pool about a square yard in extent. The crystals and other calcite formations are calcite in colour.

Running north-westwards off the main chamber is a passage of a very different nature. It is blocked by fallen boulders in many places, making progress sometimes difficult. After a hundred yards or so the passage divides, and it was there that the first exploration ended.

On January 2nd of this year, a large party went in and at the junction split up into two, the main group taking the right hand passage. The top part of the passage is a large tube connected to the lower by a fissure up to two feet wide. This gives way to a small passage with a calcite floor and crystals pools, rising sharply, then dipping downwards and changing to a more spacious passage with a sandy floor. On the right hand side a passage runs downwards amongst boulders to a fine chamber containing straws of very soft white stalagmite, some eight feet long, between floor and roof. In a gour pool on the floor are some helictites growing under water. The main passage continues for several hundreds of feet and opens out into a wide aven about seventy feet high near the top of which a passage can be seen to which it is believed the draught rises. Beyond this aven since called Steeple Aven, a narrow rift leads to a small chamber from which another rift passage leads off. The easiest route is at the top of a solution tube, rising gradually until the floor is some twenty feet underneath. At the end a few boulders had to be removed, and the party emerged through the floor of a large passage up to thirty feet in height and running north to south. The southerly end is blocked with boulders and sand, but it may come in for a closer inspection later on. Due to the amount of climbing up and down over piles of boulders, the passage was immediately named Switchback Passage. It ends in quite a spacious chamber with two or three old exits sealed up with calcite leaving only one way on, westwards through a very narrow fissure leading to what is so far called Final Chamber. A small choke of boulders here may hide a lot more cave as there is evidence that a great deal of water sometimes comes through.

So much for the Eastern Series. The second party on January 2nd, consisting of only two members took the left hand fork at the junction and returned to report difficult going. They had been on the move for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and had turned back for want of tackle at a 15ft. pitch. As it was then 10 o'clock at night it was decided to return next day.

The Western Series has turned out to be some of the most difficult caving in South Wales. For almost four hundred yards from the Junction the passage is high and mainly too narrow at the bottom to walk on the floor, even if it can be seen. The height, or rather the depth is as much as forty feet in places as the only way on is sometimes near the roof making use of any available footholds on either wall. Efforts to find the easiest route have resulted in several different levels being tried here and there. No party has succeeded so far in coming out by the same route as they went in.

The first place of interest after the Junction, a hundred yards or so on, is the Crossjoint. A fissure of unknown height meets the main passage at right angles. A small stream falling down from the roof runs a short distance to the main passage and straight away sinks between the boulders. From the Crossjoint the route gets more tortuous than previously, with several hairpin bends up near the roof. A window in the left hand wall leads to a parallel passage, in the floor of which is Thirty-Two Feet Pot. At the bottom is a large chamber about twenty feet wide floored with sand and boulders. From a so far inaccessible fissure a stream issues, and it is lost immediately in the floor. Due to the continuous climbing on the way to the Pot this stream is likely to be the one that falls down at Crossjoint.

The place where the first party turned back is some distance from here and is known as Fifteen Feet Pot. It appears that the main passage here crosses a much larger lower passage that may underlie the whole system, but hopes of exploring it are small because of the amount of sand fill. There is a climb of thirty feet out of the Fifteen Feet Pot into a passage a mere ten feet high. It contains many formations, orange in colour, with straws three feet in length. The height gradually gets less until one is reduced to crawling over a boulder strewn floor, aware of the draught whistling around the ears. Just as it appears to be getting too narrow for further progress, the passage enters a large chamber. In the right hand corner are large flows of calcite falling steeply down an aven. The slope overhangs in places and after a climb of sixty feet levels off and enters a smaller chamber containing some fine gours and two small avens in the roof both of which have been climbed with nothing found. Looking back over the stalagmite slope on the left hand side is a traverse to the upper part of the main aven, wider than lower down. From the traverse a steep slope of stalagmite covered boulders some forty feet high leads to a ledge running back over the aven. Masses of calcite issuing from the roof here effectively block what must have been a fair sized passage. In the other direction a high passage is also blocked but in this case with boulders.

The overall height of the aven, now called Cascade Aven, has been estimated at one hundred and fifty feet. It has been climbed to within twenty feet of the roof, and as yet, no way on has been found though the draught must get out somewhere. It enters at the bottom and just disappears, and there being so much space, a smoke test is out of the question.

So far Tunnel Cave has yielded about a mile of passages and even within the boundaries of Cascade Aven, Final Chamber, and Christmas Grotto (the one with the eight feet straws -Ed), is by no means explored. The general direction is towards the sink at Waen Fignen Felen, which supposedly rises in Dan-yr-Ogof. We might one day make a round trip- but much remains to be done.

Dai Hunt. May. 1954.

Club activities since Easter.

Waen Fignen Felen. This has again been visited by Dolphin and Co. but they are not contemplating restarting their ten year 80ft. dig. A possible back door to the Wiggy-Wiggy - Dan-yr-Ogof connection is somewhere on the Black Mountain. This is now being dug. Will this be another pot like Pwll Dwfn?

Tunnel Cave. At the end of the past month's drought the water level in the flood rising in Davy Price's Hall dropped a couple of inches below the submerged roof. Some 20ft in there appeared to be more space. After contemplation the first party got cold and retired without going through. Later the same evening W.E. Clarke swam through alone and added another 10ft. before being stopped by another sump.
100

Hepste Valley. Renewed activity has been centered on an old dig of Thomas and Alexander. Results are hoped for shortly.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Hon. Secretary is moving back to Birmingham on July 1st. From that date his address will be :-

29, Wrekin Road,
Wylde Green,
Sutton Coldfield, Warcs.

Hon. Sec. W.H. Little. ~~20, Cae Mawr Rd, Rhwbina, Cardiff.~~
Hon. Treasurer. G.O. Thomas, 5, Farmville Rd., Splott, Cardiff.
Hon. Editor. D.W. Jenkins. Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells, Rads.