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SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

4, St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill,  
Swansea.

May 18th, 1946.

Dear Fellow-Caver,

The inaugural meeting of the South Wales Caving Club was held at Easter 1946 at the Gwyn Arms, Glyntawe, Swansea Valley.

Officers and Committee were elected as follows:-

Chairman:- E.J.Mason, 31 Victoria Road, Penarth, Glam.  
Hon.Secretary:- A.H.Hill, 4 St. Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea.  
Hon.Treasurer:- W.C.Freeman, 102 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Glam.  
Hon.Editor :- G.Platten, Rotherfield, Fernhill Lane, New Milton,  
Hants.  
Committee Members:- David Price, The Gwyn Arms, Glyntawe, Swansea  
Valley.  
C.P.Weaver, Red Cottage, Aldwick Lane, Wroughton,  
Near Bristol.  
J.Barrows, Bron y Graig, Colbren, Nr. Neath.

The positions of President and Vice Presidents have not yet been filled.

Subscription:- The membership fee is 10/- per annum and the entrance fee is 5/-, payable to the Treasurer. Will those wishing to enrol as members please communicate with the Secretary or Treasurer.

Tackle:- Ropes, ladders, rubber boat and necessary tools for excavation work are available for the use of members, and further equipment will be available shortly. Will members contemplating excavation work please advise the Secretary of their plans in advance, which will prevent overlapping of arrangements and enable assistance to be given where necessary.

Headquarters:- The Committee is most anxious to establish headquarters in the Glyntawe area, to provide members with simple sleeping accommodation etc. There are difficulties in this connection but the main problem is financial. The co-operation of members is invited to assist in creating funds to be used expressly for this purpose, please send your contribution, however small, to the Treasurer, marked "H.Q. Fund".

Whitsun Meet:- June 8th-10th inclusive, at Glyntawe. Caving trips will be run as transport permits, the archaeological excavation of Dan-yr-ogof Bone Cave will be continued, and a renewed onslaught will be made at Ffynnon Ddu in the light of recent developments. A promising excavation on Cribarth Mountain also demands attention. We regret the arrangements made at the Easter Meet for sleeping and catering cannot be repeated on this occasion owing to local Victory celebrations. Those attending please make own arrangements for sleeping and catering. There will be facilities for campers at the Gwyn Arms sites bookable through the Secretary or direct. Please advise the Secretary if you are coming so that extra supplies of milk, bread etc can be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

A.H.HILL (Hon.Secretary)

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

August 28th, 1946.

4, St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill, Swansea.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

A SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB SUCCESS - Ogof Ffynon Ddu. - All members will wish to join in congratulating Ian Nixon and Peter Harvey on their successful entry into this system. Shrewd judgement and two-and-a-half days' digging solved this longstanding problem. The cave is extensive, essentially Welsh in character, and the river can be followed upstream through a most impressive ravine for half a mile. There are also dry sections containing some fine formations.

An ambiguous paragraph in the local Press report has unfortunately led the London Press to attribute this find to the University of Bristol Speleological Society. The fact is that Messrs. Nixon and Harvey (members of both S.W.C.C. and U.B.S.S.) rightly regard their activities in South Wales to the advantage of the S.W.C.C.

Following the discovery at the commencement of the August Meet exploration was immediately taken up by members of S.W.C.C. who discovered the skeleton and subsequently removed it for examination at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Members of U.B.S.S. who arrived in South Wales on 9th August have greatly assisted in the survey and further exploration of the cave, and have since joined the S.W.C.C.

Minchin Hole (Gower). The archaeological section under Ted Mason, continuing the excavation of this cave, has discovered part of the jaw of rhinoceros likely to prove Glacial or Pre-Glacial Period.

The Trip to G.B. Cave, Mendip, Somerset, Sept. 14-15.

Both the U.B.S.S. and Westex Cave Club have generously placed their huts at our disposal for this trip.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY will take place at the U.B.S.S. Hut at Burrington Combe during afternoon and evening of the 14th. Each member is required to be entirely self-supporting in the matter of food, and must bring supplies for hot or cold meal on arrival, breakfast, mid-day, sandwiches, and a final meal before returning to South Wales on Sunday evening (the 15th). Supplies must include bread, tea, sugar, butter, vegetables etc etc. For the main meals communal feeding will be operated. Other items required are mug, plate and cutlery. For sleeping, blankets or sleeping bag will be necessary, those possessing ground-sheets or gas-capes should bring them.

HOW TO GET THERE - Follow main road from Bristol to Bridgwater & West for 13 miles to Langford Court, turn left, cross over main Churchill-Blagdon road, then take first turn right (opposite first turning left) this is a steep narrow lane, unsurfaced towards the end, and leads to common land with the Hut in a clearing on right. (in case of difficulty enquire at Mendip Gate Cafe).

Approaching Bristol from main Gloucester road or from Chepstow Ferry (via Tockington and Almondsbury) take cross road at Patchway to Westbury-on-Trym, Falcandale Rd, Westbury Rd., Lurdham Downs, Belgrave Rd., Bridge Valley Rd., Hotwell Rd., Ashton Swing Bridge, Ashton Rd., Winterstoke Rd., to Bedminster Down and main road to Bridgwater & West.

SOUTH WALES MEMBERS are urgently required to supply the following information PER RETURN to all members travelling by train unnecessarily. 1/Car-owners - if arrangements made for transport of specified persons :- state names, Number of seats remaining vacant and starting point and time. Expected time of arrival,

11/Others.

If arrangements made for transport state with whom. If arrangements not made, state earliest time convenient for starting on the 14th and point from which transport is required.

In the event of numbers exceeding transport available, members for whom seats cannot be found will be notified. The alternative route is by train to Bristol and thence by bus from King St. terminus. Blagdon, Cheddar and Bridgwater services run close to Burrington Combe.

"G.B. CAVE will be entered at 10 a.m. sharp, Sunday (15th)  
Leader IAN NIXON.

Will ALL members attending this Meet Please advise to assist  
arrangements and appointment of section leaders. Your co-operation  
on this point will be appreciated.

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CAVING HELMETS are obtainable from Helmets Ltd., Moat  
Factory, Wheathamstead, St. Albans, Standard caps with leather  
lining 5/- plus post, state size and lamp fixing required.

A.H. HILL

(Hon Sec.).

Dear Peter.

Many thanks for yours of 20<sup>th</sup>;

Shall be pleased to assist at

Frogman effort, but we must get some better weather.  
Perhaps we shall during Sept. & October.

Look forward to seeing you Sept 14<sup>th</sup>.

Have you obtained type for the bike yet, I have a  
permit though for type for the car, but cannot get  
the type!!! If I am able to get one for bike (350x19)  
do you require or are you fixed up.

Good luck

Arthur.

Just for the circular A.K.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

4 St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill,  
Swansea.

Oct. 10th, 1946.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Headquarters:- Mr. T. Ashwell Morgan has generously placed a cottage at our disposal, for use as headquarters and hostel. This is situated at Penybont, just off the main road and about half way between the entrance to Dan-yr-Ogof Caves and Craig-y-nos Hospital. Some repairs and decorations are necessary, and members are invited to assist in this work at week-ends, so that the cottage may be used as soon as possible. It is suggested that certain week-ends should be devoted to this work, and tentative dates are given below.

Archaeological Section:- During the winter months Mr. J. Rutter of Eynon's Ford, Reynoldston, Gower, will continue excavations at Minchin Hole on behalf of the Club. He will be pleased to arrange visits with interested members if they will contact him.

Ted Mason is holding Sessions on Sunday evenings to clean and number bones from Ogof yr Esgyrn. Those wishing to help will be welcomed at 31 Victoria Road, Penarth, any Sunday evening after 7 p.m.

"The British Caver":- News of Club Activities, including reports and photographs of Ogof Ffynon Ddu, will appear in the next issue of "The British Caver" to be published shortly. Copies are strictly limited in number, and orders will be dealt with in rotation. To ensure a copy inform the Secretary at once and enclose a P.O. for 4/6d.

Research:- The attention of members is drawn to the need for research in various spheres of speleology in this area. The archaeological section is doing very valuable work, but there is scope in several other directions. To name a few - speleo-biology, palaeontology, hydrology, etc., In addition there is a vast amount of work to be done in the survey and photography of caves, the location of caves, cave-entrances and swallets, and in the excavation of cave-entrances and swallets. Cave diving is rapidly developing as a means of passing water traps which prevent the continuance of explorations by the more usual methods. Members are invited to send in their names, stating their particular interest.

Forthcoming excursions:-

Oct. 20. Ogof Ffynon Ddu. Meet at the cave, 11.30 a.m.

" 27. Renovations to Headquarters - 11 a.m.

Nov. 2/3. (Archaeological Section) Dan-yr-Ogof Bone Cave (Ogof-yr-Esgyrn).

" 10. Ogof Pwll Swnd. Meet Herbert's Quarry at head of Brynamman-Llangadock Mountain road at 10.30 a.m. OR Pontardawe Cross at 9.45 a.m.

" 17. Renovations to Headquarters, 11 a.m.

Dec. 1. Llygad Lluchwr. Meet Cwrt-bryn-y-beirdd Farm 10.30 a.m. OR Pontardawe Cross 9.45 a.m.

8. Renovations to Headquarters, 11 a.m.

Members taking part in Bone Cave work (Nov. 2/3) please advise E.J. Mason Esq., 31 Victoria Road, Penarth.  
For all other trips please advise the Secretary.  
Co-operation on this point is very necessary to enable smooth working of arrangements.

A.H. HILL. (Hon. Sec).



- SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB -

TO ALL MEMBERS.

4, St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill,  
SWANSEA.  
3rd January 1947

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu:-

The attempt to dive through the terminal sump on Nov:16th was unfortunately not successful. First reports indicate that the water-logged passage continues downwards and at a distance of 40ft. is too narrow to permit further progress. The divers were Messrs. C.P.Weaver, H.G.Balcombe and D.A.Coase.

In future the keys of the cave will be obtainable only from Mr. David Price at the Gwyn Arms. Parties intending to visit the cave please advise the Secretary in advance when arrangements will be made for the keys to be issued. (This rule applies particularly in the case of cavers not known to Mr. Price and will ensure that all parties are acquainted with the dangers and are composed of bonafide cavers).

Several members recently inspected the river section after a week of very heavy rainfall. At the rising the water was level with the top of the dam. In the cave the stream was over-flowing into the first dry section and at the river junction the water had risen considerably up the approach slope and was level with the roof arch in the stream passage. There was no visible flow. The party re-visited this spot 45 minutes later when it was observed that the water had dropped several feet and was no longer held in check. The river was nothing less than a raging torrent, it's speed and volume with accompanying booming noises provided a most awe-inspiring spectacle.

Great care should be exercised at all times in negotiating the stream passage which is liable to very sudden flooding. A comparatively small rise above normal makes the passage upstream a hazardous operation, and such excursions should be made with due regard to the weather and existing water conditions in the cave.

A limited number of photographs (post card size and in sets of six) are available at 5/- per set from Mr. Ian Nixon, The Frythe, Welwyn, Herts. These include the four pictures which appear in the last issue of "The British Caver".

Cave Research Group:- News has been received of the formation of this Group and SWCC. is applying for membership. The main object is to further the serious study of caves and related matters as follows:- Archaeology, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, History and Folklore, Hydrology, Minerology, Palaeontology, Photography, Physics and Survey.

Membership will consist of - Full Members, Annual Sub: £2. 2. 0.  
Clubs and Societies " " 5/-d or more  
Junior Members (under 25 yrs)" 5/-d

The Hon. Acting Secretary of the CRG is Brig.E.A.Glennie, 99a, Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts., to whom applications for membership should be made.

General:- It is hoped to arrange another trip to the Mendips shortly after Easter next to explore Swildons Hole.

Will members please consider the possibility of organizing a party for a week's caving in Derbyshire, the time convenient to the greatest number would seem to be August Bank Holiday Week.

The Treasurer's address is now 162, Redlands Road, Penarth Glam. Telephone No. Penarth 570.

The Reports of activities of the Cave Diving Group will be circulated to interested members who send in their names.

Quarrying operations beside the Penwyllt road and close to the village, have brought to light a small cave containing some fine formations of unusual character. Specimens have been removed for examination, but members small enough to crawl through the first narrow passage to the main chambers should do so before the cave is lost.

Ogof Pwlll Swnd has been re-visited. Great difficulty was experienced in passing the lip of the ladder pitch and two members failed completely. A further visit will be made to enlarge this part of the cave.

A.H.Hill (Hon. Sec.)

Source: <http://www.fishbase.org>

TO ALL MEMBERS

January 1947

A Caving Code.

1. Make sure equipment is in good order before trip.
2. An adequate supply of lamps, candles, and matches should always be carried. Do not depend on others to help you when your light fails.
3. Do not make unnecessary risks in a spirit of bravado .
4. Never cave alone, there should be at least three in a party whenever possible.
5. The instructions of the leader of the party should be obeyed without question, and the party should not be split without permission. Do not allow your party to become divided on any account, report the cause of delay to the man ahead so that the entire party can be stopped.
6. A life-line (properly belayed) should always be used on ladder pitches.
7. Learn how to tie a few useful knots, particularly the bowline.
8. All tackle should be tested periodically.
9. A first-aid kit should be available for use if required.
10. Do not leave litter about in the cave.
11. The good cave-man jealously guards the beauty of the caves he explores and therefore he does no damage, except that which is essential to the progress of any excavation. Also he does not carve or write inscriptions therein.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## PROGRAMME

1947

Jan 12

Lesser Garth Cave.

Meet Castle Inn, Tongwynlais Nr. Cardiff. 11.30.a.m.

85

19

Renovations to H.Q. 11.30.a.m.

" 26

New excavation - Ffrydiau Twrch.

Meet Ystrad Owen (Nr. Cwmllynfell) 10.30.a.m.

(Note:- At present there is very little scope for a

large party on this excavation, interested members  
please contact Dr. A.J.R.Hudson, Mackworth Villa,  
St. Thomas, Swansea. Phone. Swansea 3775)

Feb: 2

Renovations to H.Q. 11.30.a.m.

" 9

Special announcement.

23

Ffrydiau Twrch. Meet Ystrad Owen 10.30.a.m.

March 2

Porth-yr-ogof, etc. ,

Meet Angel Hotel, Pontneathvaughan 10.30.a.m. or at cave  
11.a.m.

11, a.m.

" 16 Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. Meet Headquarters, Penybont 11.a.m.

APRIL 4 - 7 OPEN EASTER MEET AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

(Details later).

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

3rd February, 1947.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Programme:- The excursion arranged for Feb. 9th will be DAN-YR-OGOF; full trip beyond the lakes will be made if conditions permit. Meet Headquarters, Penybont (near Craig-y-nos Hospital) at 10.30 a.m.

A circular is enclosed with this notice giving details of the EASTER MEET. This will be an "open" affair to which members of other Clubs are being invited. The Craven Pot Hole Club is including this Meet in its programme, and it is likely that 12 members will attend from the Club alone. Members are particularly asked to give their full support in assisting with the organisation and general running of the Meet.

All open dates on the current programme will be devoted to work on Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS:- It is hoped to have the Headquarters ready for general use as from Easter next.

There will be a charge of 1/- per night per member. With regret, the Committee has decided that ladies shall not be permitted to sleep in the Headquarters, but alternative accommodation will be available at the Gwyn Arms at the same rate.

Personal:- It is regretted that Mr. E.J. Mason, our Chairman, has been transferred to the Bristol area. He has thus found it necessary to resign from this office. We shall miss him for his wide experience in caving matters, and for his good work on the archaeological side in which Mrs. Mason has also been actively associated. At the same time we shall hope to see Mr. and Mrs. Mason in South Wales from time to time, and wish them every success on removing to Bristol.

Eforest Fawr:- Letters of protest have been sent to two M.P.'s concerning War Office proposals for the acquisition of large tracts of the Eforest Fawr area for military training.

A.H. Hill.

(Hon. Sec).

4, St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill, Swansea.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

3rd February, 1947.

OPEN EASTER MEET (APRIL 4th-7th inclusive).

Another OPEN MEET of the above Club is planned for Easter to be held at GLYNTAWE, SWANSEA VALLEY, and will be organised on similar lines as last year.

All interested cavers will be welcomed, and those intending to be present are asked to send their names to the address below as soon as possible (not later than March 1st) so that accommodation may be arranged for everybody. All available hotel and private accommodation in the district has been reserved for the Meet, and those who would prefer to stay at any special place are asked to communicate through the Secretary to avoid overlapping of bookings. Every effort will be made to conform to the wishes of members in this respect, but no guarantee can be given that this will be possible in every case, as the available accommodation must be used to the best advantage.

Camping sites are available at the Gwyn Arms. It is hoped that all able to camp will do so.

Co-operation in stating likely requirements at the earliest opportunity will ease the work of the organisers considerably, and will enable special arrangements to be made if necessary.

Those using Club accommodation will be provided with bed only, and are asked to bring their own blankets, sleeping bag etc.

Catering will be done on a communal basis, and each member must bring sufficient rations for the week-end, and also knife, fork, plate and mug etc. A charge of 2/6 per day per member will be made towards general catering expenses.

An appropriate charge will be levied on all members to cover tackle and general expenses of the Meet.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (subject to alterations if necessary)

Good Friday April 4th:-

Party 1. Dan-yr-ogof (x)

"

2. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

3. Hill-walk-Party to assist conveyance of gear to excavation at Sink-y-Glodd thence to Carmarthen Fan (2632ft.) returning via Fan Lakes. Distance approx. 12 m.

6 p.m. Annual Meeting of Cave Association of Wales.

Saturday April 5th:-

Party 1. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

2. Llygad Llŵchwr and Pale 1. (T).

3. Hill Walk-Fan Ghirych (2381 ft) Distance approx 8 m.

Sunday April 6th:-

Party 1. Porth-yr-ogof and Neath Valley Caves (T)

2. Pant Mawr Pot (70 ft. pitch)

3. Dan-yr-ogof (x)

7 p.m. Annual General Meeting of S.W.C.C.

Monday April 7th:-

Party 1. Ogof Pwll Swnd and Easter Cave (T)

2. To be arranged. *Ogof Pwll Swnd?*

(x) indicates subject to permission of the Trustees.

(T) indicates transport required.

Nearest Rly. Station:- Craig-y-nos St. Penwyllt (Neath & Brecon Line)  
Glyntawe is 1m from the station.

Approach by rail from all parts:- Swansea by train thence by Swansea/Brecon bus from Trinity Place (200 yds G.W.R. stn) At present through buses leave Swansea 6.25 a.m. 9.10 a.m. 12.10 p.m. 3.10 p.m. 6.10 p.m. More frequent services to Ystradgynlais necessitating change to local service for Gwyn Arms (Glyntawe)  
Alternative route:- Train to Neath (General) thence by train to Craig-y-nos Stn. from Neath (Riverside) or bus Neath/Ystradgynlais and local service to Gwyn Arms (Glyntawe).

4. St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill, Swansea.

A.H. HILL.  
(Hon Sec).



SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

To all Memners.

1. The open Easter Meeting was held at Glyntawe from April 4th-8th 1947. Visitors included members of the Craven Pothole Club, C.D.G., E.E.S., B.U.S.S., Wessex Cave Club, Etc.

Very unavourable weather conditions made it impossible to carry out the programme as arranged, but parties were able to explore Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Llwchwr (where the Cave Diving Group went 'into action'), Pant Mawr Pothole and Pontneathvaughan. Owing to the floods the Dan-yr-Ogof trip had to be cancelled, with the exception of a short visit to the lakes. A visit was made to the Upper Neath Valley caves, but, again, owing to flood conditions, the caves were inaccessible and the party confined themselves to wading the river, which is usually a dry river-bed! In spite of the bad weather, the Meet proved a success and many new friends were made. A word of praise is due to the ladies who fed the wet and hungry males.

2. The Annual General Meeting was held on April 6th.

The Officers and Committee for the ensuing year were as follow:-

Chairman: J. Rigg, 12, Westgrove, Merthyr Tydfil, Glam.

Hon. Secretary: A.H. Hill, 4, St. Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: J. Davies, 32, Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon. Treasurer: W.C. Freeman, 164, Redlands Road, Penarth, Glam.

Hon. Editor: G. Platten, Rotherfield, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, Hants.

Committee: J. Barrows, Bron-y-Graig, Colbren, Nr. Neath, Glam.

          P.I.W. Harvey, 7, Woodstock Road, Redlands, Bristol.

          Dr. A.J. Hudson, Mackworth Villa, St. Thomas, Swansea.

Co-opted Member: E.J. Mason, 11, Kendon Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

3. Subscriptions for the Year 1947/1948 are now due and the Treasurer will be pleased to receive these at an early date.

4. Headquarters Charges. It has been found that the overnight charge of 1/- does not cover the running expenses and, in future, charges of 2/- per night on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and 1/- for other nights of the week, or, 10/- covering the week, will be made. Members using the cottage are asked to see that it is left in a tidy condition and are requested to sign the book; breakages should be reported. In view of the increasing popularity of H.Q. it is advisable to book beds a few days in advance, bookings to be made through the Asst. Sec.

5. Cave Rescue Organisation. Volunteers are required for rescue parties; members living in South Wales are particularly required. Will volunteers please let Dr. Hudson have their names.

PROGRAMME OF MEETS.

(In future, Members intending to take part at meets should inform the Leader. Where no Leader is named, the Sec. or Asst. Sec. should be informed).

May 4th. Cwm-pwll-y-rhyd and Neath Valley Caves. Leader: W.C. Freeman.  
Meet Angel Hotel, Pontneathvaughan. 11.0 a.m.

May 24th-26th. The following suggestions are made:

- (a) Excavation Camp at Black Mountain. Leader: Dr. A.J.R. Hudson.  
(Please let Leader know as early as possible, if interested).
- (b) Pant Mawr Pot;
- (c) Ogof-yr-Esgwyn - archaeological section. Leader: E.J. Mason.
- (d) Dan-yr-ogof, if permission is granted. Application has been made.

Those who require accommodations at H.Q. or Glyntawe area, please notify Sec. or Asst. Sec. (b), (c) and (d) are alternative suggestions to those not camping in the Black Mountains.

June 8th. Eglwys Faen, Llangattock, Nr. Abergavenny. Leader: A.H. Hill.  
Meet Bear Hotel, Crickhowell, 1.0. p.m.

Arrangements are in hand for a trip to Swildon's Hole, Mendip, at the end of June or early July. Details later.

(Members are reminded of the General Meeting of the Cave Research Group to be held in the Lecture Hall of the School of Geography, Mansfield Road, Oxford, at 5.30 p.m., Saturday, May 3rd, 1947.

32, Heol-y-deri,  
Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

J. DAVIES,  
(Hon. Assistant Secretary).

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

32 Heol-y-Deri,  
Rhiwbina, CARDIFF.

August 20th, 1947.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Further details can now be given of three new cave systems entered during recent months, viz., Pwll Dwfn, Sink-y-Giedd and the extension of a cave in the Cwm-pwll-y-rhyd (Neath Valley) Group. These discoveries have one disappointing feature in common; the expectations of extensive systems, founded on hopeful internal or external indications, have not materialized when exploration has been completed.

PWLL DWFN. The fifth pitch has been descended, but the cave closes down beyond. The total depth is in the region of 300 ft. and the pitches are approximately 20', 50', 40', 80', 40'. This is a remarkable cave, its character quite new in the area, and in fact, previously unknown south of Yorkshire. The pitches are very close together, the first, reached some 20' inside the cave, leads immediately to the top of the second at a wide boulder strewn ledge. Only the 3rd, 4th & 5th pitches are separated to any extent, and these probably not more than 75' apart. This cave provides a heavy day's caving and parties contemplating the trip should take care not to disturb the loose boulders at the head of the 2nd pitch, and should move with particular care beyond the foot of the 4th pitch.

SINK-Y-GIEDD. The excavated cave has now been explored under favourable water conditions to a distance of 600', where progress is stopped on reaching several vertical rifts, too narrow for human passage. Exploration involves a 45' ladder pitch.

CWM-PWLL-Y-RHYD. Very recently a visit was paid to the Bridge Cave under the direction of Charles Freeman, who informed Peter Densham and Kay Dixon, who went ahead, that they would reach a blockage of large cemented boulders below which water could be heard running. On examination, Densham and Dixon found the boulders were no longer cemented and proceeded to remove them. Less than half an hour's work cleared the obstruction and they broke into the stream passage, at first narrow, then later opening out into a large stream passage some twenty feet wide and thirty feet high. At a distance of approximately 300 ft, the new passage closed down and terminated at a water trap. At the point of closure is a gallery reached by a ledge climb, where there are some fine formations, particularly straws with bulbous ends. Exploration continues, and the cave will be surveyed and photographed in the near future.

HEADQUARTERS:- Committee has decided to reduce overnight charges to 1/- per night for all nights of the week, 7/- per week, until further notice.

PROGRAMME:- Excavation work will not, in future, appear on the programme; it is felt this work is best undertaken by small parties taking a personal interest in a particular spot. At the same time, members are always welcome at these operations.

Members intending to take part on club trips are asked to inform the Trip Leader.

Aug. 31. Will's Hole, Pontneathvaughan. Meet 11 a.m. Angel Hotel, Pontneathvaughan. LEADER:- Ashford Price, Tanyralt, Abercrave.

Sept. 21. Ogof Sink-y-Giedd. Meet 11 a.m. Headquarters. LEADER: J. Davies, 32 Heol-y-deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Oct. 12. Ogof Pwll Swnd. Meet Herbert's Gry. Brynamman/Llangadock Mtn. Rd at 10.30 a.m. LEADER: A.H. Hill, 4 St. Alban's Rd, Swansea.

Nov. 3. Cwm-pwll-y-rhyd and Bridge Cave. 11 a.m. Pontneathvaughan. LEADER: W.C. Freeman, 164 Redlands Road, Penarth.

Nov. 24 & Dec. 8. Renovations to Headquarters.

Archaeological Section:- MINCHIN HOLE. Aug. 30/31 & Sept. 6/7. LEADER: E.J. Mason, 11, Kendon Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

J. DAVIES. Hon. Asst. Secretary.

*Will you please forward the enclosed*  
SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB. *C.C. P.W.*

4, St. Albans Road,  
Brynmill, Swansea.  
3rd November, 1947.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Cave Research Group.

Annual General Meeting of CRG will be held at the Museum Theatre, Queens Road, Bristol, on Saturday 29th November, 1947 at 5.30 p.m. All members of SWCC are entitled to attend and are asked to make a special effort to do so.

Nominations are urgently required for the election of Club representative to serve on CRG Committee for the forthcoming year commencing 1st January. These should show names of proposer and seconder and the agreement of the nominee to stand for election, and should be sent direct to Brig. E.A. Glennie, at Steepways, Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts, before the 15th inst.

Rule Books. Some members may not yet have received copies of the club rules; in this case will they kindly inform the Assistant Secretary, a book will then be sent.

Cottage, Penybont.

To meet increased fuel costs during the winter months overnight charges will now be raised to 2/- per night for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights until further notice. All other nights of the week 1/- per night.

Due to the efforts of two members, who devoted much time to the work, the cottage has now been limewashed and painted throughout, and other improvements have been made for the comfort of members staying there.

Suggestion. The termination of the basic ration, and the failure of an application for supplementary petrol, are bound to result in a serious reduction of activities. However, the Christmas Holiday may prove a convenient time for a Club Meet. Members who favour the idea, are invited to send in names so that plans can be made accordingly.

New addresses:-

Hon. Treasurer:- W.C. Freeman, Maes y Ffrwd, Ty Glas Rd. Llanishen, Cardiff.

Members:- Mrs & Mrs. J.G. Parkes, 7b, Oakfield Road, Clifton, Bristol 8.

Miss Elizabeth Monroe, 6, Wilby Mews, Ladbroke Rd. London N.W.10.

W. Ashford Price, Ynyswen, Abercrave, Swansea Valley.

In the near future your Secretary will be moving to "Kingswood" Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea. Letters sent after the 15th November should be addressed to the above.

Members are asked to make a point of notifying changes of address.

"British Caver" will be published shortly. To ensure a copy advise the Secretary or G. Platten, Rotherfield, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, Hants.

A.H. Hill, (Hon. Sec).



SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

21st February, 1948.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Easter Meet - 26/29 March at Glyntawe.

In view of present difficulties it has been decided to limit the Easter Meet to Club Members only. It is desired to avoid the elaborate arrangements which have been necessary for the two previous "open" meets to enable members to concentrate on serious speleological work.

No special arrangements will be made for catering, sleeping or trips, and members are asked to make their own arrangements for accommodation. Cottage bookings should be made through the Asst. Secretary immediately, and where difficulty is found in obtaining other accommodation in the district, the Secretary will help where-ever possible. Camping sites are available at the Gwyn Arms.

A limited number of visitors will be permitted subject to the sanction of the Secretary, and providing members have priority in the matter of accommodation, whether this be the cottage or otherwise. To assist general arrangements, will members please advise the Ass't. Secretary before 6th March, if they intend to be present.

It is believed the above arrangements conform to the wishes of the majority of members, and it is hoped full support will be given. The A.G.M. will be held on Sunday, 28th March at 7 p.m.

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(Club Secretaries please note, SWCC will be pleased to co-operate in granting cottage facilities to visiting clubs at convenient times. Such visits are preferable to the "open" meets of the last two years).  
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CAVE RESEARCH GROUP. Sub. for Full Members remains at 2 guineas p.a. and for Junior Members (under 25 years) 5/- p.a. payable to Brig. E.A.Glennie, Steepways, Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. An increased allocation of News Letters will be received in future, and members wishing to be included on circulation list please advise. Car members living within the Welsh Petrol Region only may apply for a ration to be used in checking positions of caves for Ordnance Maps; the work is being done for O.S. with CRG as intermediary. Help is urgently needed in all limestone areas of South Wales. In the first instance, will members please contact the Secretary, so that applications may be co-ordinated.

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LANTERN SLIDES. Thanks are due to Ian S. Nixon who has presented a set of six slides of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu to the Club. These are available for members.

CHANGED ADDRESSES: Miss E.Monro, 6 Pembridge Crescent, London, W.11.  
Ken Leadbetter, Bwthyn Bach, Caedegar Row,  
Ystradgynlais.  
Dr. H. Savory, 47 Ninian Road, Cardiff.  
Miss P.E.Powell, 103 Hampton Rd, Redland, Bristol,  
6.

COTTAGE: A charge of 6d will be levied on members using cottage for changing only, when fuel is used.

EMERGENCY RATIONS: Our Treasurer has for disposal a limited supply of U.S.Lifeboat emergency rations in sealed tins. Contents include 7 oz. each concentrated biscuit, chocolate, malted milk tablets and pemmican etc. One tin provides sufficient emergency food of high value for 2 or 3 men for 12 hours. Price 2/6d each plus 6d postage.

Hon.Treasurer:- W.C.Freeman, Maes-y-Ffrwd, Ty Glas Rd, Llanishon,  
Cardiff.

Hon.Ass't.Sec: J.M.Davies, 32 Heol-y-deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon.Secretary: A.H.Hill, "Kingswood", Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.



SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

May, 1948.

The Annual General Meeting was held during the Easter Meet, when Officers and Committee were elected as follows:-

President: F.J.North, D.Sc., F.G.S.  
Chairman: J. Rigg.  
Hon.Secretary: A.H.Hill.  
Hon.Asst.Sec : J.M.Davies.  
Hon.Treasurer: W.C.Freeman.  
Hon.Editor. G. Platten.  
Committee Members: Miss Gwyn Tudor, Messrs. K. Leadbetter,  
Arthur Price.  
Committee Members: E.J.Mason (Archaeological Leader)  
(Co-opted under Rule 20.) Dr. A.J.R.Hudson (Cave Rescue Organisation Leader).

The following, who have generously supported the Club, are elected as Honorary Members:- T. Ashwell Morgan Esq., Swansea, and Jeffery Morgan Esq., Abercrave.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. North has agreed to accept a further term of office as President.

RULES: Rule 2 has been amended, and a new rule (No.22) has been made. In due course, members will receive a new page covering these changes, which should be inserted inside front cover of Rule Book.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the current year are now due. To assist the work of the Treasurer, please send 10/- promptly to the address below.

COTTAGE: Grateful thanks are due to one of our members, Mr. Philip Duncan, who has recently installed electric lighting at the cottage, free of any cost to the Club.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP: A General Meeting will be held at Sheffield University in the Botany Dept., Lecture Theatre, on 12th June at 6 p.m. The meeting will be devoted to a symposium on the Origin of Limestone Caverns. On Sunday, the 13th, there will be an expedition to Bagshawe Cavern, Bradwell, with all degrees of caving available. Will those who propose attending the General Meeting advise immediately, so that accommodation can be arranged for them.

FORTHCOMING ARRANGEMENTS:-

May 15/17th Whitsun Meet.  
June 6th Caves near Bridgend. Meet Coychurch 11.30 a.m.  
Leader: W.Ashford Price, Ynyswen, Pen-y-cae, Swansea.  
Intending members, please advise the Leader in good time.(Valley.  
June 10/14 Visit of boys of Monmouth School, who will be using cottage.

With the return of the petrol ration, it is hoped that many of our members who have found it impossible to attend trips during the past months, will be with us again. Further programme will be issued in due course, and it is intended that trips shall be arranged for the first week-end in every month.

Hon.Secretary:- A.H.Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.  
Hon.Asst.Sec:- J.M.Davies, 32 Heol-y-deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.  
Hon.Treasurer:- W.C.Freeman, Bwthyn Bach, Augusta Crescent, Penarth, Glam.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

October, 1948.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP: The Group's Annual General Meeting will be held at Leeds Technical College, at 5.30 p.m. on the 13th November next. For accommodation, please apply to Hon Secretary CRG, Steepways, Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts.,

CRG Committee wishes to ascertain the effect of a reduction in the subscription rate for Full Members on the number of full members. In order to assist discussion on the point, it is desirable to know how many members of SWCC would join as Full Members if the subscription rate were reduced to (a) 30/-, (b) 21/-. Will you please send in your reply immediately to Hon. Sec., SWCC (address below).

CRG is doing valuable scientific work, the results of which are published in brief in Monthly News Letters, and occasional publications.

MENDIP CAVING EXHIBITION: This will be held at Bristol Museum from 24th Nov. to 8th Dec., and will include exhibits covering all sections of Caving.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Jenkins on his recent marriage to Miss Margaret Crowther.

Also to Ken Leadbetter on the arrival of Dolphine, a sister for Tanice.

THANKS are due to Brigadier E.A.Glennie for the gift of 100' line.

PROGRAMME: Nov.6/7. Neath Valley Caves.

Dec.4/5. Llygad Llwhwr and Pale 1.

Enquiries are being made regarding overnight accommodation at Pont-neath-Vaughan and Trapp respectively for these trips. Please advise Hon. Sec. or Ass't. Sec. immediately if you wish to be included in the party for Neath Valley.

Dec.27th(Bank Holiday). Lessor Garth Cave, Nr.Cardiff. Meet 2.30 p.m. at Tynant Inn, reached by crossing Ynys Bridge from main Cardiff-Pontypridd Road, halfway between Taffs Well and Tongwynlais. Turn left for 1/4 m.

Jan.2nd. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. Meet H.Q. 10 a.m.

Club trips are arranged for the first week-end of each month, but members are reminded that there is activity nearly every week-end; those interested should contact the Soc's. for details.

OGOF FFYNNON DDU: Members have recently investigated passages leading from a large chamber in the Waterfall Series. This chamber contains a motto with some fine formations and a crystal pool.

PUBLICATION of a booklet, covering the various aspects of Caving, with special reference to South Wales, is receiving the attention of the Committee. The aim is to give general information about Caving as sport and science, and to incorporate detailed information about the caves of the area, to make the booklet of value to all Cavers. You are invited to submit material which may be suitable for inclusion - details of lesser known caves, plans, and photographs.

NEW MEMBERS:

C.E.Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.  
Miss Peggy Hardwicke, 35 St.Margarets Rd, Whitechurch, Cardiff.  
Dafydd Graffydd, 40 Lon Isa, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.  
K. Levick, 19, St. Michaels Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.  
P. Griffiths, 31 Heath Park Avenue, Cardiff.  
Wyn Williams, B.B.C. Park Place, Cardiff.

CHANGED ADDRESSES: Miss D. White, 86 Mardy Street, Cardiff.

T.H.L.Wild, 148 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.  
D.W.Jenkins, Flat 4, The Central, Llandrindod Wells.  
Dr.P.Hugh-Jones, Cliff Walk, Forest Road, Penarth.  
E. Hendry, 51 Montalt Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

Hon.Secretary: A.H.Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon.Asst. Sec: J.M.Davies, 32 Heol-y-deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon.Treasurer: W.C.Freeman, Bwthyn Bach, Augusta Cres., Penarth, Glam.

- SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB -

TO ALL MEMBERS

March 1949.

EASTER MEET - April 14th/19th :- Arrangements for the Easter Meet will be the same as last year - members only, and a limited number of visitors by invitation. Members please arrange their own accommodation unless they intend using H.Q. when they should inform the Ass't Sec. as soon as possible, in view of the fact that attendance already seems likely to be large. Programme will be arranged as weather conditions permit.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 17th April at 6 p.m. It is hoped all members will make a special effort to attend this meeting.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP :- A General Meeting is to be held in South Wales on May 7th, at Swansea or Cardiff. Your Committee has recommended that the venue should be Cardiff which is the central point for Mendip and South Wales. All members of S.W.C.C. are eligible to attend. Further details later.

Vol.1 No.1 of Transactions of the Cave Research Group has been published recently. This includes a special geological report on Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and other papers on cave formation. The price is 4/-. (N.B. The Club has a copy of this book which will be circulated to those who so desire, as also copies of all C.R.G. News Letters. Apply to Ass't Sec.)

"THE BRITISH CAVER" will be published in the near future, and will include plans of Easter and Bridge Caves, and Ogof Pwll Swnd.

THANKS are due to :-

Brig.E.A. Glennie for a further 100' line.

Theo Wild for a copy of "Ten Years Under the Earth" - Casteret.

Gordon Warwick for a set of index-keys for 6" and 2½" OS maps of South Wales.

John Davies for a wireless set for H.Q., and to Wilf Hibbert of No.3 Penybont, who rendered necessary repairs.

FFRYDIAU TWRC :- Ian Nixon and Peter Harvey are planning an assault on this important resurgence for the coming summer, camping at the site. They will be glad to hear from members who can help with the excavation which is tentatively planned for the two weeks commencing 24th July.

NEW MEMBER :- L.S. Dingle, 2, Penylan Terrace, Cardiff.

CHANGED ADDRESSES :- Arthur Price, 12, Meridian Place, Clifton, Bristol.  
Mrs.L.W.Millward(nee Miss "Pep" Powell), Court-de-Wyck, Claverham,  
Nr. Bristol.

Jack Rigg, 29, Longlands Avenue, Heysham, Lancs.

The departure of Jack Rigg for the North of England in January will be regretted by all members. As our Chairman he was closely associated with the affairs of the Club, and also played a leading part in survey work and all Club activities at a time when his all-round experience was of great value. We shall look forward to seeing him in South Wales from time to time.

PROGRAMME :- March 20th. Black Mountain(Brynamman) to Gwyn Arms  
Ridge Walk. Meet Herbert's Quarry 1030 a.m.  
Notify Sec. for transport.  
April 3rd. Pant Canol. Meet H.Q. 10.30 a.m.

Hon.Secretary:- A.H.Hill,Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon.Asst.Sec.:- J.M.Davies, 32, Heol-y-deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon.Treasurer:- W.C.Freeman, Bwthyn Bach, Augusta Crescent, Penarth, Glam.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

May, 1949.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP: A further General Meeting will be held at Skipton on Saturday, 18th June, at 5.30 p.m. Two papers will be read:-

- (1) Cave Archaeology in the Peak District - D. Bramwell.
- (2) The Mossdale Problem - J.O. Myers.

On the 19th there will be a trip to Lost John's Cave, for which transport is being arranged from Skipton. Full details from the Secretaries.

The Cardiff C.R.G. Meeting was well attended, and agreed by all as an outstanding success. It is to be hoped that further meetings of this kind may be arranged from time to time.

An International Cave Meeting is to be held in France at Valence-sur-Rhone, (Drome) from 22nd - 28th August, 1949. The Comite Nationale de Speleologie invites all foreign speleologists to attend this meeting which has as its main object the establishment of an International Speleological Congress. Further details will be sent to those interested.

NEW PUBLICATION: "The River Scenery at the Head of the Vale of Neath" - by Dr. North, price 3/- (Postage 4d) from The National Museum, Cardiff. This popular book follows the general plan of the earlier editions, but has been completely revised and re-written. It contains 32 plates, 30 text figures and 110 pages packed with information about the geology of this area.

"If the story were better known and the pleasures of reading Nature's record were more widely enjoyed, the wise use of our countryside would perhaps become the concern of Everyman: at present, it is too largely dependent upon the efforts of a comparatively small number of individuals who, for their pains, are often regarded as cranks." (Intro.)

PROGRAMME: June 4th - 7th. Whitsun Meet. Programme according to weather. Archaeological work at Bone Cave.

July 3rd. Ogof y Ci, near Merthyr. Meet Pontsarn Rly. Stn. at 11 a.m. (This Cave was first entered last year by local cavers, and has recently been extended considerably by our own members).

July 30th-Aug. 2nd. August meet at Glyntawe.

Sept. 4th. Neath Valley Caves. (Details later).

In addition to the above, it is hoped to arrange week-ends at Gower and Llangattock areas during July or August. Individual members interested, should advise.

Sept. 10/11th is suggested week-end for a trip to Mendip. (Details later).

NEW MEMBERS: B.D. Price, 36 King Edward Avenue, Worthing, Sussex.

H. Griffiths, 29 Knoll Road, Godre'rgraig, Swansea Valley.

Dr. R.A.J. Pearce, Lindisfarne, 11 Stallard St, Trowbridge, Wilts.,

H.G. Smith, Central Y.M.C.A., Station Terrace, Cardiff.

T. Rees-Thomas, Tonplanwydd Bungalow, Banwen, Nr. Neath.

COMMITTEE: The following are co-opted under Rule 20:

E.J. Mason and K. Leadbetter.

CONGRATULATIONS and Best Wishes to Colin Low and Elizabeth Monro on their recent marriage.

CAVE RECORDS: The accumulation of complete cave records of the area is a task with which we can all help. It is our duty to the cavers of the future to create files of plans, photographs of characteristics, cave-entrances, promising spots, sinks and risings, special investigations, and the many other things which are of speleological interest.

Hon. Treasurer: P.A. Duncan, 39 Rotherslade Road, Langland, Swansea.

Hon. Ass't. Sec: J.M. Davies, 32 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon. Secretary: A.H. Hill, Kingswood, Chapel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Your Sec. will be absent on holiday from June 13th - 27th.



- SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB -

To All Members:

August 1949.

FFRYDIAU TWYRCH :- A party led by Ian Nixon and Peter Harvey has recently spent a fortnight digging at this rising. Although heavy rain, mist and winds of gale force were fairly frequent and retarded progress, three possible entrances were worked without definite result. Further work under better conditions will be necessary to ascertain how far the boulder-mass extends into the hillside, and the nature of the water channel.

DAN-YR-OGOF:- The Red Chamber (reached from the Cauldron in the Show Cave) has been re-visited after a lapse of ten years. The Harvey "Maypole" was used to ascend from the Cauldron instead of the fixed ladders used previously.

CRAIG-Y-NOS QUARRY CAVE:- Another cave re-visited for the first time since 1939, for survey purposes. Official comment was that the cave was small and one visit should suffice to complete the work. In fact, several visits have been necessary to complete the survey, and, although passages are small, this is certainly an interesting and quite extensive system providing an afternoon's caving of easy grade.

OGOF FFYNNON DDU:- CDG Diver Coase has examined the Pots and Pluto's Bath in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. The 1st Pot is 13' deep and the 4th 11ft. deep. Full report will be issued shortly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:- A considerable number of subscriptions remain unpaid. Members are reminded that these were due at Easter, and that under Rule 6 members are deemed to have ceased membership after a lapse of four months. Annual subscription is 10/-d.

One or two members may not have received receipts for subscriptions paid, will they please inform the Treasurer.

CALOR GAS has now been installed at H.Q.

Aug. 27/28. Archaeological dig at Minchin Hole, Pennard, Gower.

This excavation commenced when Ted Mason was resident in South Wales, is now in the capable hands of J.G. Rutter. It is planned to give regular assistance which is urgently required. Please advise the Secretary immediately if you wish to help.

Club trip on Sept. 4th to Neath Valley.

If weather favourable the party will camp at Pontneathvaughan. Will's Hole will be visited, and the waterfalls of the district.

PROGRAMME ARRANGEMENTS:- Sept. 10/11. Mendip week-end.

Thanks are due to Wessex Cave Club for permission to use their Headquarters at Beechbarrow, Nr. Priddy. Members intending to take part on this trip please advise John Davies. Accommodation must be booked immediately. The following may assist intending members:- Campbell's Steamers sail between Cardiff and Weston as follows:-

Sept. 9th C to W - 9.30, 11.30, 6.30 and 8.30

" 10th C to W - 9.45, 10.30, 11.45, 7.15, 7.30 and 9.15.

" 11th W to C - 10.30, 11.15, 6.15, 6.45, 8.30, 9.0.

Journey takes one hour, no cars, single fare 5/-d.

"Bristol" Buses run between Weston and Wells weekdays hourly from Beach Bus Station on the hour, journey taking 1 hr. 20 m. Last bus leaves at 10 p.m. Sunday return buses Wells to Weston, hourly on the half-hour between 12.30 and 8.30 p.m. (Service 43) Wells to Beechbarrow - 8.30 a.m. and every hour, last bus 9.30 p.m. (W. dys). Beechbarrow - Wells (Suns) Approx. 2 p.m. and every hour to 10 p.m. - (Service 27) Journey approx 15 mins. Note - Members using evening boats on the 10th will have no connection from Wells - Bbw.

A further circular will be issued shortly.

Hon. Secretary:- A.H. Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon. Ass't Sec:- J.M. Davies, 32 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon. Treasurer:- P.A. Duncan, 39 Rotherslade Road, Langland, Swansea.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

NOVEMBER, 1949.

THE PASSING OF SUMMER, 1949: At last the prolonged spell of gloriously hot weather has ended, but the Summer of 1949 will be remembered as one of the driest on record. Parched ground and dried-up stream beds have now, at last, received in full measure, the refreshment they have awaited so long. In a matter of days, the scene has changed completely, and members have already renewed their acquaintance with a flooded stream passage in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

PROGRAMME:

Nov. 6th: Club Trip - Llygad Lluchwr and Careg Cennen Castle. Leave H.Q. 10 a.m., Ystradgynlais Cross 10.15. Limited transport available.

Nov. 19th: Annual General Meeting of Cave Research Group, at the Lecture Theatre of the City Museum, BRISTOL, at 5.30 p.m. Plans are in hand for a caving trip on the 20th; details not yet available. All members are eligible to attend this meeting.

Dec. 3/4th: Club Trip, Pwll Dwn. (Four ladder pitches). Club members will ladder the cave, leaving tackle in situ for the visit of Birmingham Cave & Crag Club the following week-end, who will be using the cottage.

1950.

Jan. 8th: Wills Hole and Neath Valley. Meet Angel Hotel, Pontneathvaughan 10.30 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Chairman, Dr. Aubrey Hudson, on the arrival of a son and heir, Robert Cunningham, during Aubrey's absence with the British Schools Expedition in Norway as Hon. Medical Officer.

THANKS are due to Colin Hill for the gift of a Hand Bearing Compass, and to Phil Duncan for electric lamps for the cottage.

CHANGED ADDRESS: Miss M. Hazelton, Seaton House, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, Herts.

NEW MEMBERS: D. Cook Jenkins, 28 Hawthorn Cres., Pontypridd, Glam.  
Miss M.B. Newman, 52 Second Ave, Oldfield Park, BATH.  
Miss B.T. Owen, Miramar, Horsecombe Brow, Combe Down, BATH.

Miss J. Phillips, 11 Lewis St, Treforest, Pontypridd, GLAM.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Treasurer is very worried about the large number of outstanding subscriptions. The sum of 10/- was due from each member at Easter, with a maximum of four months' grace. If your sub. is outstanding, will you please send to the Treasurer at the address below.

Hon. Secretary: A.H. Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon. Ass't. Sec: J.M. Davies, 32 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon. Treasurer: P.A. Duncan, 39 Rotherslade Road, Langland, Swansea.

SOUTH WALES DIVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

February, 1950.

AGEN ALLWEDD: From the Llangattock Quarries area, Brian Price reports the extension of a small cave by clearing a very tight passage completely blocked with boulders. This is situated to the west of Eglwys Ffyn and first received attention in 1946. Renewed efforts at Christmas cleared the blockage and, at a distance estimated at 100 yards from the entrance, a major cave system was entered. Exploration is not complete and a Club trip has been arranged for the near future. (Details below).

LLETHRID CAVE (Gower): The discovery of this cave was reported in our September circular. Don Corse and party were able to explore the system fully before the fine weather broke, when the final passage length was estimated at 1,000 feet. A recent visit shows that the entrance is once more sealed - flooding appears to have caused subsidence of the entrance which cannot now be located exactly.

GLYN HIR: The November trip to Llwchwr and Careg Cennen Castle will be remembered for the unexpected ending which accompanied the pursuit of a new cave reported at Glyn Hir. This is situated beside a very attractive stretch of the River Llwchwr which hereabouts boasts a fine 20ft. waterfall. The search for the cave failed, owing to vague information given, and enquiries followed at the manor-house of Glyn Hir. The historical interest of the place was heightened by the fact that the residents spoke very little English (neither were they Welsh). Here was found a very fine dove-cot, to which the first news of the winning of the Battle of Waterloo was brought by carrier pigeon. A sunken path led from the house to a circular subterranean chamber some 40ft. deep, which is reputed to have been used as a powder factory, the powder being smuggled over to France during the Napoleonic Wars. Attempts to find more about the history of this interesting house have, so far, failed; nevertheless, members think the subterranean chamber was intended to be the new cave!

PROGRAMME: Feb. 5th. Agen Allwedd, Llangattock Quarries.

Meet Monmouth School Headquarters, Daren, at 10.30 a.m. sharp. This is best approached via Brynmawr and 4-mile tramroad, starting near the top of Blackrock Hill. Members requiring transport, and those able to offer transport, please contact Secretary immediately.

March 5th: Cave Rescue Training at Headquarters, led by Dr. A.J.R. Hudson. Meet 11 a.m. Instruction will combine theory and practice.

March 25th/26th: North Valley week-end.

Thanks are due to the Y.H.A. for permission to use the Hostel at Ystradfellte. Maximum accommodation for 12 persons. Those wishing to attend, advise immediately.

April 7th/11th: Easter Meet and Annual General Meeting.

The Archaeological Section will be working at Ogof yr Esgryn. The A.G.M. will be followed with an illustrated lecture by Dr. Hudson, "Arctic Norway with the British Schools Expedition". Full details will be given in the next circular.

NEW MEMBERS: J.A. Thomas, 2 Prospect Place, Pontnewydd, Newport, Mon.  
D.G. Davies, 6 Duck Street, Neath, Glam.  
K. Evans, Pleasant Hill, Brynawel, Crynant, Nr. Neath, Glam.  
I.H. Jones, Coed-y-Glyn, Crynant, Nr. Neath, Glam.  
A.C. Hazzard, 23 Avondale Road, Gelli, Pentre, Rhondda. "  
D.C.V. Moore, Sudbury, Cwmawr, Clydach, Swansea.  
C. Jenkins, Ash Grove, Pontypriid, Glam.

TREASURER: Owing to extreme pressure of work, Phil Duncan has found it impossible to continue in this office. Colin Hill has agreed to fill the vacancy for the time being. Thanks are due to Phil Duncan for the good work he has done.

Hon. Secretary: A.E. Hill, Kingswood, Chapel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon. Asst. Sec: J.A. Davies, 32 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon. Treasurer: C.E. Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.



-- THE SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB --

To All Members:

April, 1950.

AGEN ALLWEDD: Preliminary news of this discovery was given in our last circular. Members who took part on the club trip at the beginning of February will have every reason to remember this for a very long time to come. Snow, which began to fall as the party left Monmouth School Headquarters for the cave, continued throughout the day, and finally resulted in quite a few anxious moments before the party descended from Mynydd Llangattwg to the shelter of the valley below, and homewards.

The cave is situated at the extremity of the quarry tram-road west of Eglwys Faen, Llangattock Quarries. (NGR.E318730, N215915) The name may be translated as "Cleft of a Key" or "Keyhole Cave", and is related to the shape of the small double tube type entrance.

From the entrance there follows a section of exceedingly tight crawl-passages which include "The Jaws" - a Chinese puzzle for large persons - "The Figure of Eight" and "Sally's Alley". This section ends at a distance about 100 yards from the entrance, in the course of which the explorer has crawled, or more appropriately, struggled for upwards of 30 minutes. Technically this is the most difficult part of the cave where the big man frequently finds it impossible to proceed or withdraw, and the shape of the particular obstruction has to be studied carefully to take advantage of any minor widening. Beyond, the cave opens up gradually and there are several branch passages, all of which have not yet been explored. Passage height does not exceed 4 - 5ft. for a considerable distance except at a lofty rift where innumerable bats are hibernating. Streams using the cave passages are quite small, and, although no check has yet been made, they appear in part to be unconnected with separate outlets. Maximum size is attained in the main downstream passage which ends in a large boulder-choke in an unstable condition. As exploration proceeds, this passage becomes more and more boulder-strewn with the unseen stream running under the boulders which cover the floor. Estimated distance from entrance to boulder choke is 1500 ft.

There are a number of interesting features which warrant the attention of the specialist members of the club. The initial section would appear to be a phreatic network, and the larger active stream passages show evidence of phreatic origin with entrenchment of the floor by the recent vadose streams. Many of the boulder masses are overlaid with dry muddy sand, and isolated relics of this material with water-swept edges occur on shelves at heights of 15-20 ft. above the present floor level. No formations have been observed.

Brian Price is to be congratulated on this worthy find which is bound to stir interest in the eastern end of the limestone belt.

GLYN HIR, LLANDEBIE: Details of the history of this interesting manor-house have been found in the County Library, Carmarthen. Peter Du Buisson bought the house in 1770, and it remained in the family until 1921. The pit in the grounds, which was inspected by members, is described as the "Ice House" and had been used for many years as a game-house. Together with the Knife-factory founded by Du Buisson, it was the subject of numerous rumours regarding his behaviour during the troublous days in which he lived. The news of the victory at Waterloo first reaching this country at Glynhir is described as "probably true". - From Carmarthen Antiquary, 1945/46, "A Carmarthenshire Huguenot Family".



THANKS are due to Mr.T.Ashwell Morgan for the gift of a paraffin cooking range and oven, and to Colin Low for lantern slides of Pwll Dwfn and Waen Fignen Felen.

EASTER MEET, APRIL 6th-11th incl: Cave trips will be arranged with regard to water conditions and transport. Throughout the week-end the archaeological excavation of Ogof yr Esgyrn will be continued. Volunteers are urgently required for this work. Renewed digging near Pwll Byfire will be continued.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Gwyn Arms, at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, the 9th April.

AGENDA: Minutes of the last A.G.M.

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer.

Election of Officers, committee members and honorary members.

Amendments to rules.

Discussion and decisions upon any matters affecting the Club.

It is regrettably necessary to advise that Dr. Hudson is unable to be present to give the lecture announced in last circular owing to extreme pressure of work, nor does he seek re-election as Chairman.

It is hoped that all members will make a special effort to attend the Easter Meet. Those wishing to stay at Headquarters, please inform the Assistant Secretary immediately to ensure accommodation.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP: An advance notice of the publication of CRG Transactions Vol.1, No.3 accompanies this circular. We commend this publication to all members, as it is the result of prolonged serious investigations by E.A.Glennie in one of our own caves - Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. The text is illustrated by a large plan, 13 diagrams and 11 plates of original photographs. Price 4/- post free, from P.B.Binns, 34 Alexandra Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Two more General Meetings are planned by CRG for 1950, one at Sheffield in May and a second at Bristol in June. Members are invited to submit a synopsis of any paper they wish to read, duration of which should be about 20 minutes. This should be sent to the Secretary of CRG at new address - 16, Mornington Mansions, Hove 3, Sussex.

CHANGED ADDRESSES: T.Wild, 16, Mornington Mansions, Hove 3, Sussex.  
Arthur Price, 59, Christchurch Street, Ipswich.

Hon.Secretary:- A.H.Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon.Ass't Sec:- J. M.Davies, 32 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Hon.Treasurer:- C.E.Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

To All Members.

May, 1950.

Annual General Meeting: This was held during the Easter Meet, when Officers and Committee were elected as follows:-

President:- Dr.F.J.North, F.G.S.  
Vice-President:- Brig. E.A. Glennie, C.I.E., D.S.O.  
Chairman:- J. M. Davies.  
Hon. Secretary:- A. H. Hill.  
Hon. Treasurer:- C. E. Hill.  
Committee:- Miss Gwyn Tudor, Miss Peggy Hardwidge  
and Colin Jenkins.  
" :- (co-opted under Rule 20) E. J. Mason.  
Hon. Members:- Messrs. T. Ashwell Morgan, J. L. Morgan,  
-Downey, C. Powell, Mr. & Mrs. David Price.

Three new appointments have been made -

Cottage Warden:- Colin Jenkins.  
Tackle Manager:- P.I.W. Harvey.  
Records Officer: D.C.V. Moore.

Amendments to Rules:- Visitors may use club facilities three times, or at the discretion of the Committee.  
Visitors shall pay 50% above club rates.

Secretary's Report:- The Secretary reported a gratifying increase in local membership of the club, which remained in the region of 70, despite the regrettable resignations of some of the old stalwarts who found it impossible to continue membership.

He recalled with pleasure the highly successful Cave Research Group Meeting at Cardiff last May and the excellent arrangements made by our President, Dr. North, with the co-operation of the National Museum of Wales. The Club was privileged to have as a member, Brig.E.A.Glennie, who had devoted so much time to his special investigations in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, the results of which had been so well published by the C.R.G.

Main cave finds were those at Llethrid, Gower, and at Llangattock Quarries with the entry of Agen Allwedd. The work of survey of caves in the area had continued, and a very determined attempt to pass the Boulder Choke in Ffynnon Ddu had not yet borne the success which it deserved. It was most desirable that the interest of members should extend beyond attendance at the monthly club trip, and that this should be the beginning and not the end of caving for another month.

It was unfortunately necessary to report that the Chairman, Dr. Hudson, found it impossible to stand for re-election owing to pressure of work. For similar reasons, the Treasurer, Phil Duncan had also been compelled to give up, and Colin Hill had ably filled this post. The report ended with a vote of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Price and all who had so generously supported the Club during the past year.

Treasurer's Report:- The Treasurer reported that funds stood at £46. 18. Od, an increase of £13. 5. Od over the previous year. Copies of the accounts were circulated to the meeting. He proposed that £35. 0. Od should be placed immediately as a Sinking Fund, that there should be a tightening of arrangements with officers handling club's money, and for the signing of the cottage book. All the proposals were accepted unanimously.

Easter Meet:- Uncertain weather, accompanied by rain and high winds, somewhat damped the enthusiasm of members, but did not seriously upset operations. The work at the Boulder Choke (O.F.D.) was carried to a negative conclusion. A hand-line was fixed round the ledge to the Maypole Series to facilitate entry of this interesting section without using the Maypole. Other trips included Pant Mawr Pot and Dan-yr-Ogof.

contd....

Archaeological operations were continued at Ogof yr Esgyrn, where work has reached the clearing-up stage, but is still likely to last another two years. The rock shelter below the cave was dug without result.

Penwyllt:- Two most promising reports have recently come in of the noise of a large volume of water flowing beneath the surface, about half-a-mile from the village. In one case, a dog entered a hole and its barking seemed to be lost in a large cavern. The checking of these reports and digging operations, if found practical, will be one of the important tasks to be performed at the Whitsun Meet. Volunteers will be needed.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu:- During a recent visit, members of the Birmingham Cave and Crag Club found a new route from the Crystal Chamber (Waterfall Series) to the Canyon avoiding the descent of the 60ft. Pot. Also a new passage connecting the drop from Eagle's Nest to Stream Passage.

Circulars:- At the A.G.M. it was agreed that the periodical circulars should be enlarged to give members more detailed information about activities and caves, new and old. Members are invited to send in reports of anything of interest for publication in circulars. When doing so they should clearly indicate that the material is for publication.

Records:- Now that a Records Officer has been appointed, members are asked to bring to notice all those interesting things which they have observed from time to time, and which should be given written reference for future checking. They may communicate direct with D.C.V. Moore, Cwmdwr, Clydach, Swansea, or with the Secretary.

Programme:- May 27 - 30. Whitsun Meet, at Glyntawe.

June 11th. Ogof y ci, Pontsarn, nr. Merthyr Tydfil.  
Meet at the Station at 10.30 a.m.  
Those requiring or offering transport,  
please advise.

During the summer it is hoped to arrange several camping week-ends.

New Members:- M.J.Unwin, Oaklands, Staines Hill, Sturry,  
Nr.Canterbury, Kent.  
D.G.Saunders, 44 Down Street, Clydach, Swansea.  
W.H.Donnan, 29 Cowper Road, Redland, Bristol 6.  
W.Roy Midwinter, 8 Tittensor Road, Clayton Estate,  
Newcastle, Staffs.

Your Secretary regrets delay in publication of this circular, owing to a combination of circumstances beyond his control.

Subscriptions for the new year are now due.

Hon. Secretary:- A.H.Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.  
Hon. Treasurer:- C.E.Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

June, 1950.

OGOF FFYNNON DDU: It is indeed strange that popular articles on caving always mention Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Mendip caves, but seldom, if ever, the caves of South Wales. With continued exploration since its entry in 1946, Ogof Ffynnon Ddu must now, surely, rank with the finest caves of the country. When more attention is given to the numerous other caves in the area, it is reasonable to expect extensions and new discoveries on a comparable scale.

At Whitsuntide, a party led by Lewis Railton, forced Low's passage and entered a new series of varying magnitude and estimated at 1,200 feet in length.

This major effort was preceded on the 27th and 28th May by survey work and the forcing of several small passages in the Maypole Series, and included entry of a well-decorated chamber - Flowstone Grotto.

On the 29th, attention was given to the boulder choke in Low's passage. Little and Railton climbed to the top of the boulders, but failed to squeeze through them, although noting that the stone over their heads was the only object between them and a vast black space. As a last resort, it was decided to blast the two boulders which blocked the way. This was successfully accomplished with 7 ft. fuse which burned for four minutes, giving ample time for retreat down the boulder slope. The boulder slope was found to continue ahead, but to dead-end to the left, although there seems to be a ledge some 25 ft. up the right-hand wall which appears to become a passage over the chock-stone of the dead-end. At the top of the other slope is a relatively low passage with a right turn giving access to a circular chamber about 40 ft. in diameter. Here follows a crawl and suspected bat droppings were first noticed. "..... the now spacious passage has a floor of dry mud and boulders, and on the right-hand side lie numbers of broken-off straws over which, in places, have grown quite large stalagmites. The further we went, the more impressive the scene became, and before long we found that the only way on was on a ledge on the right-hand side, to be followed by the crossing of a huge boulder bridge over a drop that appeared to be some 40-50 ft. deep. The roof at this point just about disappears. In a few yards, we were at the edge of a short stal. covered boulder slope. From here, there appeared to be three ways on - left, half-left, and forward. From a promising junction, things started to peter out in boulders, left, right and centre. The nether regions were, however, again observed through some boulders in the floor and at the end of the passage in a wall. Some degree of inter-connection of this lower series was established by the party splitting up and hurling down stones. The passage up the cream stal. slope terminated in a narrow upward squeeze, followed by a crawl. (Here, an obstructing small boulder had to be rolled out of the way). Then a few yards over stones leads to a squeeze by the left-hand wall which must be entered feet first to cope with a small drop. This leads to a small space too low to stand in, with a small patch of dry sand in one corner. Here again, were observed one or two suspected bat droppings. Samples were collected for examination. If, instead of dropping down the squeeze, one pushes straight on, there is an exceedingly steep slope of apparent soil and small rough stones which come in from the right and shoot down in front for some 10 - 15 feet ....."

Some 3½ hours were spent in this series which is being called "RAWL" after the names of the party of Railton, Afford, Wild, and Little, who made this excellent discovery.

(From Report by C. Lewis Railton, which will be filed in Records).

The Frog:- Recently a small frog was found clinging to the wall by the upstream sump. It was removed to H.Q. where it lived in a jampot for a week before release. Mary Hazelton reports that frogs are not of biological interest, and have been found in caves from time to time, which they may, in fact, enter as tadpoles. (The usual cottage charges were waived in this case, much to the Treasurer's regret). Mary suspects the reported bat droppings (above) may be of mouse tribe - a skeleton of shrew-mouse having been found in the cave previously.



DAN-YR-OGOF: Of interest is the recent colouring of the R.Llynfell issuing from Dan-yr-ogof. On 16th May it ran a strong red colour; cleared slightly on the 17th, but then continued until the 21st, finally clearing on the 22nd. Local inhabitants say this does happen at infrequent intervals. The brown, peaty colour during flood, and the milky colour during drought are both well-known. The latter is considered due to collapse of dried sandbanks, and its appearance is locally considered to herald rain. Dr. North writes: "..... What you say about the change of colour at Dan-yr-ogof is difficult to explain from the armchair ..... The salmon-red colour rather suggests the presence of oxide of iron. You may have noticed that the stagnant water in association with peat is often red, due to suspended iron oxide. Indeed, only yesterday when I was on the moorland above the Hepste, looking for exposures of glaciated rocks, I saw quite large tracts of red water in shallow pools. These were on the Millstone, which is well jointed, and the region is one where swallow-holes and the depressions indicative of collapse are abundant. It would be quite easy to imagine a fracture of a weak roof that would allow such water to drain into an underground channel. On the other hand, an accumulation of such water underground might, at any time, be drawn off by syphon action. If this happens again, it would be as well to take a sample of the water and try and filter some of it in order to collect a fair amount of the colouring material".

Report from Brynmawr Area by Brian D. Price.

The following caves have been located near Cwmavon, 2m. south of Blaenavon towards Pontypool. Leave car or 'bus by Pontypool Reservoir (W. side of road above Cwmavon).

Ginger's Cave (proposed name) in Ginger's Quarry (local name). High up E. side of valley almost opposite reservoir. Several openings in quarry. Not explored.

Jackdaw Cave in Jackdaw Quarry is immediately above top railway line on west side of valley opposite reservoir.

Rising on mountain slope just E. of road and opposite the top end of reservoir captured by Pontypool W.V. Water flows into reservoir. Digging not favoured.

Afersychan - Vague rumour of a cave.

Clydach Valley

Coal Tar Cave - 32/200122 - not on limestone - artificial.

Ffynnon Gisfaen - 32/206123 - large spring on S. Bank of R. Clydach. Other strong springs on the N. bank. These springs have never been known to abate, and it seems obvious that they are fed by the vast underground reservoir of the limestone, fed by Llangattock Moor. Water in the caves at Llangattock flows south and this would seem to be the principal outlet. Ffynnon Gisfaen is at the very top of the limestone which outcrops for nearly a mile downstream. A dig near Ffynnon Gisfaen is in progress.

Agen Allwedd: Explorations of 27th May.

Small tunnel to L., 30 yards in, partly explored; peters out, but small vertical shafts not explored.

About 100 yards in a narrow fissure leads to a roomy cavern strewn with boulders. A small hole in floor to left leads to a lower chamber with silted floor and trickle of water inwards which seems to confirm very similar conditions at far end of Ogof Gam nearby. (A connection between the two caves seems probable). Progressing inwards, three tunnels to the R. and one to L. branch off the main way. Two go a long way. The one from which the stream flows (the stream which is followed going inwards for the rest of the cave) on the right, seems to be making in the direction of the Foxholes, which are 300 yards N.W. of Agen Allwedd. One tunnel which someone has marked, "Dangerous", has its upper half still caked with silt in which are large boulders, ready to descend on the unwary.

The boulder choke at the far end of the cave (about 460 yards from entrance) as a veritable rabbit warren underneath, which requires extreme care. Underneath, one can follow the stream further, and also a tributary backwards some way. According to estimates, Wacn Rudd,

the very large subsidence in the moor, is somewhere over this boulder choke, and it would seem probable that the cave led once to a large chamber which fell in.

Two points to watch when exploring: a strong E. wind causes such a terrific draught in the entrance passages, that it is impossible to keep even an acetylene lamp alight on occasions. The party found they were so tired when emerging, that it became very difficult to negotiate the tunnels, and they recommend carrying emergency food and torches, and that all parties should inform their whereabouts before entering the cave.

Foxholes - mentioned above - further digging needed.

Cwm Claisfor: Several "Potholes" marked on 6" map examined and found to be of usual type.

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Penwyllt: The cave-entrance, mentioned in last circular, was dug out at Whitsuntide, and a small, but interesting system was entered, total estimated length, 75 ft. Voice connection was made with another cave some 10 yards away. Two small passages in the cave might "go" if opened up enough to allow passage of the human form.  
Location - 22/862158.

Cottage: The amount of electricity used, and the consequent cost, is excessive. All users of the cottage are asked to exercise the greatest economy in this direction, and not to leave switches on in rooms not in use.

De-rationing of petrol: Since the last circular, all motorists have heaved a great sigh of relief over the conclusion of petrol rationing. In this difficult area, the restriction of transport has controlled our activities more, perhaps, than we have realised, but in future, the accusation that members spend too much time at Craig-y-Nos should be heard a little less. Car-members will now be able to increase their assistance to members, and your Committee feels it would be a nice gesture if members offered to make a contribution to running expenses.

Omission: The report of the A.G.M. did not include an amendment to Rule 9 passed at the meeting. This rule is now, "The Committee shall have power to suspend or expel any member for any breach of any rule, or whom, for any other reason, the Committee shall consider unfit to be a member, the member concerned shall, however, have the right to appeal to an extraordinary general meeting. Such member shall not be eligible upon expulsion for introduction as a visitor.

Committee: Dr. A.J. Hudson has accepted nomination to the Committee under Rule 20, as Cave Rescue Leader.

Subscriptions: Members are reminded that subscriptions for the current year are overdue, and the Treasurer will be glad to receive all outstanding as soon as possible. Rates - Full Members 10/-  
Junior Members 5/-.

Circulars: This circular is the first of the enlarged form as approved at the A.G.M. The length of any circular is left to the discretion of the Secretary, but there is always room for your report, and other members are eager to know what you are doing. If you wish to open up discussion on caving matters in circulars, please do so. All reports and letters for publication should be clearly indicated - "For publication". Reports should be factual, and closely connected with caving, and, as far as possible, free from the relation of incidents which are not of general interest.

PROGRAMME: July 8th and 9th. Gower week-end.

The main objective for this week-end will be the re-opening of Llethrid Cave and further exploration. Also, if time or size of party permits, examination of other promising swallets and cave-entrances in Gower.

Colin Jenkins has very kindly offered use of Poplar Cottage, near Port Eynon, and situated at the top of the hill leading to Horton, next to Methodist Chapel. Each member must bring food, bedding, cup and saucer, knife, fork, and spoon.

Members should assemble at the cottage after 4.30 p.m. but main caving operation will take place on the Sunday, leaving at 9.30 a.m. sharp for Llethrid, where work will commence at 10.15 a.m.

Names to the Secretary immediately, please.

July 22nd/23rd. Visit of Wessex Cave Club to Penybont.

The Wessex Club will have priority in use of the H.Q. this week-end, and there is no guarantee that our own members will find accommodation there.

August Bank Holiday, Aug.5th/8th. Usual Holiday Meet.

Trips: Aug.6th Dan-yr-Ogof (subject to owners' permission)

Aug.7th Pwll Swnd and/or Easter Cave, near Brynamman.  
Transport will be required for this trip.

Aug.20th - Llangattock Caves - Eglwys Faen & Agen Allwedd.  
Meet outside Monmouth School Headquarters at  
10.30 a.m.

Sept.3rd. - Ogof y ci, Pontsarn, Nr. Merthyr Tydfil.  
Meet Pontsarn Station, 10.30 a.m.

Archaeological Section:- The excavation of Minchin Hole will be continued, under leadership of Ted Mason, between July 29th and August 12th. The main party will be staying at Eynons Ford, Reynoldston.

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Hon.Secretary:- A.H.Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon.Treasurer:- C.E.Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

## SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

To all Members.

December, 1950.

Officers and Committee join in wishing all members a bright and prosperous New Year.

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Club Dinner: A number of members have supported the suggestion that we should hold a Club Dinner. After much consideration of the problems of long-distance members in returning home, or finding overnight accommodation anywhere in South Wales, it has been decided to hold the first Dinner at Pen-y-cae where the usual club accommodation will be available.

The proposed date is February 3rd, at 7 p.m. The monthly club trip will follow on the 4th February.

As this is a first venture, and it is impossible to forecast how many members will wish to attend, it is essential that we should know immediately whether you will be coming. Will you please make a special point of advising the Secretary by return if you are coming, so that arrangements may proceed.

Youth Hostels Association: The Welsh Region of Y.H.A. offers a special concession to all members of the Club who join Y.H.A.

Members of S.W.C.C., on official trips and expeditions, will be allowed to take cars to Youth Hostels in the area during the slack period of the year. This period is reckoned as October to July, but excludes Easter and Whitsuntide. In all cases it will be necessary to advise the Hostel Warden in advance of the visit, and, with the exception of the "no-car" rule, the usual rules of hostelling will apply during such visits.

All hostel wardens have been informed of the arrangement which has been made possible through the good relations which exist between Y.H.A. and ourselves. The South Wales Regional Y.H.A. Committee is aware of our difficulties in covering the area adequately, particularly in winter when camping is not practical. This is also a time when those hostels which remain open are very little used.

There are conveniently situated hostels at Crickhowell, Ystrad-fellte, Storey Arms, Llandeussant, Cilibion (Gower), Port Eynon (Gower) etc. In addition, a new hostel at Tenby will be opened in the Spring. At most of these evening meal and breakfast may be obtained by previous order.

To obtain the maximum benefit from this concession it is obviously desirable that regular members of the club should join Y.H.A. when it would be possible to base some of our monthly club trips at hostels. Your Secretary will be pleased to supply further details.

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### unrestricted cave digging in Yorkshire.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Cave Research Group, attention was drawn to the large amount of promiscuous cave digging in Yorkshire. Some of the excavations were 30 feet or more in depth, and a source of danger to walkers and sheep, being entirely without fencing. Farmers and land agents agreed that there was no objection to digging undertaken with proper supervision and necessary precautions by recognised clubs.

While we sincerely trust we have not erred in this manner we must at all times dig with discretion.

### Ogof Ffynnon Ddu - Preservation of Cave Fauna & Flora.

Since a bridge has been put across the circular hole in Pluto's Bath, many find it more convenient to use this route to and from Stream Passage, instead of going through the Bye Pass.

This means a good deal of traffic down the stalagmite slope leading from the Bath. This slope is the home of an interesting and perhaps rare, water fungus or mould, and of a cave species of Asellus which feeds on it. Too much trampling on these may render both extinct. May I ask those who follow this route to take the following precautions:-

1. Avoid stepping on the top rim of the stalagmite slope and leave a margin of at least a foot at the top margin of the slope.
2. Keep to one path only down the centre of the slope.

Specimens of the fungus and Asellus have been taken for identification. Club members are asked not to collect any more.

E.A.Glennie (21.10.50).

(The bridge would appear to have been only a temporary feature, but this route has sometimes been used by long-legged members. In view of the above perhaps we could all use the Bye Pass route in future, and thus ensure the preservation of these interesting specimens - A.H.H.)

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Cave Research Group: Effective January 1st 1951, the individual membership subscription is reduced from Two Guineas to Twenty-Five Shillings. This step has been taken in the hope that it will result in many more cavers joining the C.R.G. In so doing, they will be entitled to their own copies of all C.R.G. publications without charge and will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are supporting a group which is working steadily for the accumulation of speleological knowledge.

Several worth-while publications are on the way including those on Cave-survey and Cave-terminology.

For the coming year the secretary of C.R.G. is:-

E. A. GLENNIE,  
Seaton House,  
Shrublands Road,  
Berkhamsted,  
HERTS.

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Operations - 1.10.50 - Ogof-coed-cae, Rhongyr-isaf, Pen-y-cae.

Mr. Cyril Powell reported that a hole had opened up in the field behind his farm. This was widened by John Barrows and with the aid of a ladder he went down into a stream-passage below.

D. Coase, P. Hardwidge, Jean Phillips and Colin Jenkins went down through approximately 10 feet of clay-bound boulders into the stream passage. The stream was found to be flowing under a bedding plane, and was fed additionally by a waterfall from the adjoining swallet and by water feeding through impassable rifts.

A specimen of rock was brought up and Mr. Powell identified this as "rotten-stone" which was worked in this area 70 years ago for the manufacture of brass polish. This name proved very appropriate as the cave was found to be unstable and the rock walls crumbled very easily. Surface opening was 4' diameter, depth of floor of cave 15' and explorable length 10'.

Mr. Powell intends filling in the hole which is dangerous to cattle and human beings. The cave is close by, and probably connects, through small passages, Ogof-y-Gardd, entry of which is reported on p.4. of our last circular (September 1950).

Colin Jenkins.

Report from B. D. Price. 23.11.50.

16.9.50 Excursion to Ogof Gam and Agen Allwedd. Three went down each, established communication between the end of Ogof Gam and the 'mud chamber' in A.A. (which is down small hole to left from where one emerges from fissure into large cavern). Could talk to one another although there is no air connection; stream disappearing in Ogof Gam proved to be the one issuing in mud chamber by green dye. Hence Ogof Gam is really the upstream continuation of Agen Allwedd.

21.9.50. First saw cave in R. bank of Clydach Valley, below Gelli Felen Halt and only a few yards above river. Stream issues, entrance is overhanging and awkward to enter. Known by local boys, say it goes in "a long way".

1.10.50. Examined last cave a little way in - strong 'fang' formation on walls from phreatic solution. Did not go far in.

21.10.50. Two of us dug sump at end of Ogof Gam to enter inner chamber which I first entered in 1946. Made roomy the entrance, which however, is normally flooded! To enter, block pipe in dam to stop inflow, then bale out with saucepan back over dam. Saucepan is in water. We dug the trough deepest at the near end, so that on baling it will be completely emptied. The communications established on September 16th were through this inner chamber, although we did not enter it then, and there cannot be much left to dig.

22.10.50. Inspecting the 'foxholes' (N.W. of Agen Allwedd) and found that since our excavations last Christmas a large amount of dry bracken etc. has been put back in. Farmers say badgers definitely breed there, stench on digging is terrific.

Report from B. D. Price (Contd).

19.11.50. Down Agen Allwedd. Party went in 9.0 a.m. Shortly after I put  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. fluorescein in Waen Rudd, which is an active swallet in the moor almost immediately above, and, followed in. No sign of any colour was observed though we did not leave until 2 p.m. All parts of cave examined, including the streams under boulder choke.

The last turning to the right, from which the largest stream of the cave issues (we term it 'stream passage') we explored backwards to a curious and wet region where the water falls from above and the walls are heavily vertically dissolved, with loose blocks about. This we fully expected to be green, but it was not. On the way to this, is a fairly lofty chamber with an enormous vertical mudbank on the r. bank where obviously the original mud filling has been washed away. This seems quite unique, it is about 18' sheer, and someone unknown has erected and left there an extremely rickety wooden 'ladder' made of a central upright with cross pieces, but it is too short. The formation ought to be photographed quickly before it is destroyed.

The escarpment by A.A. faces N.E. and so Waen Rudd, being directly behind is S.W. of A.A. It seems likely that A.A. runs S. (this is the direction of Ogof Gam) so Waen Rudd possibly enters another cave further West Foxholes!

Records Report No. 1, by D. W. Jenkins.

To date 78 caves have been listed, 17 plans obtained and a file on Ogof Ffynnon Ddu completed. During the next few months a file on Dan-yr-ogof should also be completed.

On the index cards of the caves so far listed there are many blank spaces to be filled in. I propose to publish in club circulars a list called "Information Required". The first of these follows this report.

Thanks are due to all those members who have already given valuable assistance. At the same time may I stress the need for the co-operation of everyone to ensure the compilation of complete records. Probably due to pressure of work in other directions, some members have not responded to requests for information. It will be greatly appreciated if they can send me a postcard stating whether they can supply the information required, even if they cannot give details until a more convenient time.

As far as possible information should be sent in under the following headings which are those of the index cards -

- |                        |            |                          |            |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Map reference       | E - - - -  | N - - - -                |            |
| 2. O.S. Sheet          | 1" - - - - | $2\frac{1}{2}$ " - - - - | 6" - - - - |
| 3. Altitude.           |            | 8. Historical data.      |            |
| 4. Name of cave.       |            | 9. Tackle required.      |            |
| 5. Length              |            | 10. Special remarks.     |            |
| 6. Liability to flood. |            | 11. Description of cave. |            |
| 7. Position.           |            | 12. Bibliography.        |            |

There is also a heading for the technical standard of cave, but this will remain open pending the decision of a committee formed to consider the matter. The views of members on this question will be appreciated however.

## "Information Required" No. 1.

Lengths of the following:- Cwm-pwll-y-rhyd, Hospital Cave, Mewslade Quarry Cave, Porth-yr-ogof, Spritsail Tor Cave, Stouthall Cave.

Map references of Bob's Way Cave in Norton's Quarry, Oystermouth; Caswell Bay Bone Cave, Culver Hole (Three Chimneys Cave), Guthole (Gower) Ilston Cwm Cave; Stenbridge Cave (Cheriton).

All relevant information about Bob's Way Cave (as above), Castell Craig yr Rwyddon (Ref. E.2845, N.2366), Crwbin Cave No. 2, Foxhole near Pennard; Foxhole (Foxhole Slade near Rhossilli); Ilston Cwm Cave, Stenbridge Cave (Cheriton); Stouthall Cave; Tom Nicholl's Hole.

Names and all relevant information for caves whose map refs. are -

- |            |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. E. 2297 | 2. E. 2467 | 3. E. 2509 | 4. E. 2511 |
| N. 2364    | N. 2128    | N. 2145    | N. 2145    |
| 5. E. 2591 | 6. E. 2591 | 7. E. 2656 | 8. E. 2852 |
| N. 2162    | N. 2163    | N. 2176    | N. 2157    |
| 9. E. 2863 |            |            |            |
| N. 2160    |            |            |            |

The address of your Records Officer is D.W.Jenkins, Flat 4, The Central, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire.

Change of Address; J. Rigg, 26 Longlands Avenue, Heysham, Lancs.

New Members; W.H.Little, 29 Wrekin Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, Warcs.

David G.J.Hunt, 19 John Street, Resolven, Nr.Neath..

John R.M.Truman, 5 Neath Road, Crynant, Glam.

## New Year's Resolutions.

No apology is needed for the heading of this little note. It is appropriate that we should think of our efforts in the past year and consider our hopes for 1951.

The continued bad weather of the last six months has damped the enthusiasm of the keenest member. Plans for explorations and digging have had to be cancelled repeatedly owing to deplorable weather conditions. Therefore, we must first hope for better weather and the delightful spell of Summer weather which usually visits South Wales in February and March. Then we must regain our enthusiasm for serious work. There is much to be done.

The "Ladies" Dig at Penwyllt is conveniently at hand when time prohibits excursions further afield. This must be pushed forward to a conclusion - positive or negative. Let us not forget that negative results, although disappointing, are important in leading to conclusions about swallet possibilities. It is reasonable to expect a further mile of passages to be found in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu when the right place has been struck. This dig holds considerable promise. If it fails we must try again elsewhere.



New Year's Resolutions (Contd).

During the latter part of the war much digging was done at a very promising spot on Cribarth Mountain. There is more than a little enthusiasm among those who then worked there for the recommencement of operations. To the layman Cribarth seems so distorted geologically that the nature of any cave which may be entered there is beyond comprehension. It could be vast - but what do the geologists of the Club think about it?

Although we may not believe local stories that the water issuing from Llygad Llŵchwr is coming from the Fan Pool, it is, nevertheless, the drainage water from quite a large area. Do we really believe that the known part of Llŵchwr is the limit?

Ffrydiau Twrch? Another considerable spring. A few years ago we used to watch the water issuing from the Black Well (Ffynnon Ddu) and we wondered what lay behind it. Now we know, and the result has given pleasure to hundreds, not excluding the scientists who have found much of interest therein. Even the archaeologists had their day! Why not the same at Ffrydiau Twrch?

Thoughts of Llŵchwr recall the Cave Diving Group's visit there under shocking conditions. Dan-yr-ogof still holds the secret of its underground water-course. Exploration of the cave shows places which might yield to digging, although it would seem that the hydraulic forces therein are so great that efforts might well be recovered with the deposits which so quickly accumulate there. Diving at the Fourth Lake might well unlock the door to the two miles of cave which must lie beyond the present limits. Events at Peak Cavern could be repeated here!

Wherever we look we are confronted with problems crying out for solution. The Vale of Neath, Penderyn and Llangattock abound with digging possibilities. Those who do not like digging will find there is much to be done in other directions - numerous caves requiring survey, caves "known" about which we know little, rumours of caves to be checked. In this circular the Records Officer asks for information about some of these lesser known caves. Every member can help with this work. In this sphere alone we have enough to keep us busy for quite a long time. The series "Our Caves" has been well received but it cannot go on indefinitely without the completion of more and more plans. In surveying the scope of our efforts we must not forget the caves of Gower and Pembrokeshire, so far much neglected.

Let us, therefore, begin 1951 with the determination to make this an outstanding year for new discoveries, survey and contributions to records. Let us work with a will and, win or lose, we shall, at least, have the satisfaction of trying.

A.H.H.

Programme:

- January 14th. Lesser Garth and Iron Mines.  
Meet Ynys Bridge, Taff's Well, 11 a.m.
- February 4th. Llygad Lluchwr. (This trip may be altered to suit  
From H.Q. 9.30 a.m. (members attending Annual Dinner).
- March 4th. Ogof Fawr, Penderyn.  
Meet Lamb Inn, Penderyn at 11 a.m.
- March 22nd  
27th. Easter Meet and A.G.M.

"Our Caves" No. 2, accompanies this circular. It is intended to standardize as far as possible on quarto paper, so that the series can be kept in a handy file.

Would members be interested in buying a file through the Club, if one can be obtained at reasonable price?

This series will, no doubt, improve with each issue and the suggestions of members will be welcomed. Our thanks are due to Brian Price, who has again undertaken duplication and lay-out including the location plan.

Hon. Secretary:- A.H. Hill, Kingswood, Capel Road, Clydach, Swansea.

Hon. Treasurer:- C.E. Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

To all members

*Aug.*  
June, 1951

The Limestone Area of the Forest of  
Dean  
-----

The limestone runs from Caerwent and the Severn near Chepstow northwards, to turn like a question-mark round Symond's Yat and Mitcheldean and back through Ruspidge. The Northern half is a rim, as in Wales, surrounding the coal-measures. "The Geology of the Forest of Dean Coal and Iron-Ore Field" (H.M.S.O. 1942) gives the zones as Whitehead Limestone on top, next Crease Limestone (which contains the iron-ore), then Lower Dolomite, with Lower Limestone Shales at the bottom, resting on Old Red sandstone. The usual reason given for the dearth of caves in the Forest is that iron has either filled the cavities or replaced the limestone. This will explain the Crease Limestone, but not the other three zones.

Most of the so-called 'Caves', like Noxon Park Caves' are old iron-mines. Iron has been worked from pre-Roman times until the 19th century. Some mines were re-opened in the 1914 war, and one mine (at Sling) was worked in the last war, closing in 1945. For those who like to explore mines, there are many extensive and interesting workings. Some of the best are the Noxon Park mines between Noxon Farm and Clement's Tump (MR. 588667) or the Devil's Chapel,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile out of Bream on the Lydney road (enter at the bottom of the small hill, where a gate says 'private road': beware of a tiresome self-appointed guide). The haematite will stain one's clothes blood-red.

There are cave-shelters and caves, partly natural and partly mined, near Symond's Yat. On the Hereford side, in a col between the two Doward hills, is a line of natural cave-shelters, of which King Arthur's cave is the biggest. This was inhabited from Aurignacian times, and contained bones of most of the Palaeolithic fauna. It was first dug up, unscientifically, in 1875; and the old spoil heap (the part nearest the cave) will yield bones and pigmy flints to the chance scratcher. I have found part of a bone harpoon. The dig was completed between the wars by Bristol University S.S. There are several similar shelters on the path leading upwards. In the quarry at the top, recent excavations to house a crushing plant revealed a small cave in which rhinoceros bones were found. There is a cave in the quarry which cannot be

opened until Government red-tape relaxes and enables the quarry owner to complete his machinery. These caves are similarly shaped (as are those on the other side of the river) with a bell mouth, and short passages inside quickly narrowing to become impassable. Brigadier Glennie would ascribe their mouths to the swirling action of a stream into which they opened (as proved by the pebbles of alien rock excavated from them), and believes that none are likely to have large passages which 'go'. Nearer Symond's Yat, just before the wire rope bridge are "Dripping Wells 'Caves'", two horizontal mine shafts going straight for 100 and for 75 yards, of no interest except to the cattle which use them as unofficial stables. Above them is a 'petrifying' spring, which covers twigs in the usual way with calcite deposit, of the same composition and unattractiveness as the fur in a kettle. Further on up in the cliff is another palaeolithic cave-shelter, Merlin's Cave.

On the Gloucester side, starting from Yat Rock in the Monmouth direction, and keeping along the base of the cliff, a number of caves will be found, varying from badger's dens a few feet long to several caves of about 100 feet, and one mine, 'Bowler's Hole' of 300 feet. It is hard to be sure what is natural cavity and what is workings of 'the old man'. The mouths of some caves, bell-shaped like King Arthur's, show stream action. Many circular pot-like chambers, several rifts too narrow to penetrate, and one chamber which was filled nearly to the roof by clay, with a calcite floor above until miners broke through it, show that there were cavities in addition to the pockets of iron. Further downstream, in Lady Park Wood, high in the cliff directly opposite Biblings Lodge, is an interesting iron-mine, which may have utilised some natural cavities; it was worked by the Romans and re-worked after the 1914 war. All these caves of Symonds Yat area are in the Crease (iron bearing) Limestone horizon. In the winter Lesser Horse-shoe bats will be found in solitary hibernation in most of the caves; no other species has been found.

There is a small cave passage at Bulwark, Chopstow (MR. 538927) going in for 100 feet under the railway cutting. It is also said that a cave passage, filled with sand, was blasted away from a quarry near Llancaut. There must be cave systems, because two springs bubble up in the bed of the Wye, just below Symond's Yat, and at Llancaut. Otherwise, I could find no trace of natural caves in the Forest. Three years



ago, however, hearing that excavation of the Roman temple at Lydney had shown that a side had been rebuilt in Roman times because a pothole beneath had collapsed, I began with Monmouth School Caving Club to investigate the St. Briavel's area. The Aylesmore Brook, running S.E. from the St. Briavel's - Howelsfield Road to Alvington, goes underground for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. This is obviously recent development, most probably along narrow bedding-planes, and the resurgence is now 20 yards lower down than the stone marking 'St. Anne's Well, 1871' (MR. 578028).

At Highgrove Farm (1 mile S.E. of St. Briavel's) are shakeholes and one open pothole, which at one time carried away chaff, but seems now deserted by the stream. The report of the schoolboy who investigated it (John Smart) was: "He descended a ladder for 20 feet before we entered the main chamber. This is roughly circular in shape, 100 feet in diameter, the entrance being approximately in the centre, and 20 feet high. It was the dumping ground for the nearby farm's refuse, and the smell from the huge pile of filth which led up to the entrance made us christen it 'Ogof Gwynt Mawr'. There was only one minor passage, which was due to faulting and not to water action; but this petered out in a boulder choke after 20 feet. It appears that the roof has fallen in and blocked the entrances of other passages formerly draining the main Chamber. It is thought that we are the first to make a detailed exploration of the cave: it is highly probable, through the presence of the rotting animals, we shall also be the last."

It was our good luck to make friends with Mr. and Mrs. Voyce, of Little Hoggins Farm (MR. 573050). His land contains numbers of potholes which have been filled in, several half full of clay, and one under a refuse dump; and a stream goes to ground by his orchard. The years ago a gaping hole had suddenly appeared beside Mr. Voyce. Without exploring it, he covered it over with iron sheep-racks and balks of timber, and it had been used as a refuse-tip for the neighbourhood. For two and a half days our party dug, sawed and hacked away under and through the obstruction, fortified by cups of tea from Mrs. Voyce, and borrowing almost every tool on the farm. When the way was clear we lowered one another by rope and life-line into a fine wide pot-hole, fluted by water-action and 30 feet deep. At the bottom a narrow-chimney went down vertically for another 30 feet. Houldgreaves proved slim enough to negotiate this, and found a 4-foot chamber through which a small stream was flowing.

Further lines of depressions run across Bearse Common (this is Forestry Commission Land, and permission must be obtained to go on it). We are working on two open potholes, each 42 feet from surface to bottom. One is a sheer pothole, like the one excavated at Little Hoggins, with no side development; the other is a large central shaft, half filled with clay, with a way down a side development. The School Caving Club are digging at both, in the rather faint hope of finding a horizontal way on. The old Freeminers believe that there is an underground river; it is unfortunately more likely that the streams which flow beneath and leech away the clay filling the fissures flow in planes too narrow for penetration. Brigadier Glennie believes that these are examples of vertical development on the lines of his paper on Himalayan pots (given at the C.R.G. annual meeting in Cardiff).

To sum up: so far no cave has been found in the Forest of Dean interesting enough to justify a special visit. The whole area, however, cries out for the attention of a caver who is a geological expert.

### Disappointment Swallet

During the half-Term break two members of Monmouth School Caving Club (Coombes and Hauldgreaves) made an attempt to get beyond the trap in Purgad Cave, but were too much numbed by the icy water. With Clementson and the writer they had another half-hour's futile sledging at the boulder blocking further progress in Ap Robert swallet; it is hoped that by now Colin Jenkins may have succeeded in blasting it (at an earlier attempt Peter Harvey found it 3 feet under water). A whole day was spent in entering Disappointment Swallet. This is a large bowl-shaped depression 300 yards away from Ap Robert, where in wet weather a considerable stream goes to ground. Several tons of peat and rock were dug out, and we eventually sledged a way into the stream passage, only to find that it disappears after 14 feet down a series of vertical cracks only a few inches wide (MR. - only approximate, in featureless country - 0914)

Forest of Dean - addendum

The disappearance of two streams within 50 yards of each other at Joyford Mill (M.R. 582137) between English Bicknor and Coleford, has just been investigated. The western stream running into the 'Wet Sink' has existed as long as can be remembered; the eastern and larger brook, running northwards into the 'Dry Sink' was created artificially some 50 years ago to divert the water from the Ninewells coalpits. The latter is much more imposing, with a considerable stream dropping down a waterfall, past a side chimney which was originally a lime-kiln. At the bottom the water sinks in various places, some going through a fine arch which quickly narrows to nothing. As this arch did not exist when the stream was first diverted into the sink, it is probable that the water is getting away through many small joints of recent origin. (On the other hand, the strata at the other sink show that these two sinks, which occur where the Trenchard measures meet the limestone, are on the line of a fault, and it is possible that an earlier stream may have created a cave system here). The Dry Sink is comparatively free from recent animal burials, but it would be a great labour to dig it; and, since there are clay banks which could fall and so dam the stream and flood the valley, permission to dig would not easily be obtained.

The 'Wet Sink' to the west of this is less imposing, but is more likely to have an extensive cave system beneath. A small stream (less than half the volume of the other) is always running in dry weather, though in wet weather a great volume of water disappears. The stream falls into a 15 foot pothole, which is round where the stream comes in, and narrows to a cleft along the joint. If the rocks were excavated from the bottom, a way might be found into a cave system. But unfortunately it has been used for ages as an animal burying ground - at present a very ripe dead calf and a disintegrating sheep are wasting their sweetness on the desert air; and I doubt whether my stomach is strong enough for the excavation. If anyone of tougher mould wants to excavate, permission should be obtained from Mr. Gwilliam, Dryslade Farm, English Bicknor. At Hoarthorn's Wood nearby (M.R. 591136) another stream goes to ground: but local observation at times when ploughing has coloured the water seems to show that this comes to the surface again  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile down the valley.

It is credibly reported that some years ago, when trial excavations for coal were made nearby, colour tests showed that the water from the Wet Sink came out at the Slaughter, between Symond's Yat and Hadnock, over two miles away, and 400 feet lower.

# DISCOVERIES IN THE WATERFALL SERIES OF O.F.D. WHITSUN 1951.

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Sunday, May 13th.

Little and I surveyed the Passage running west from Ref.19.3. - H.65. At the end of this is a narrow and almost vertical hole. This was descended with the aid of a ladder. At the bottom was a crawl passage which gave an amazing echo when shouted into. A 20 ft. crawl led to the top of a 15 ft. pitch. A ladder was necessary and was used. At the bottom we found ourselves in the other leg of the series at Ref.17.8 - H.4.

This is rather interesting because I believe the original survey of this series showed a connection between the two legs and yet the connecting crawl showed no sign of any previous use.

Monday, May 14th.

On the previous day an opening some 7½" wide by 30" high had been noted in the left wall a short distance before the 'hole'. This was investigated by Peggy Hardridge, Little, myself, David Hunt, and John Truman.

Peggy entered first and reported a small chamber with a crawl passage on the far side. Little then managed to get through and the two of them crawled off to investigate, Peggy leading. The rest of us made an effort to get in, without success. After some time Peggy returned with the request for a rope as they had reached the top of a short pitch. The return crawl had cost Peggy her trousers so the overall she had taken off to get thru' the first opening was brought back into use. By stripping down to shirt and shorts and with some pulling by Peggy I managed to get thru' the initial opening. In the small chamber I noticed a large passage on the left sloping up and curving left. This I ascended and discovered it lead to a large window looking down into the original passage. By this route the other two joined us.

The long crawl comes out in the roof of the branch passage at 17.5 - G.2. With the aid of a doubled rope it is easy to climb down and so avoid the return crawl.

I suggest this might well be named Peggy's Purgatory.

C.L. RAILTON.

4.6.51.



BRIDGE CAVE, VALE OF NEATH.

In our May circular mention was made of the possibility of changes and possible difficulties in the exploration of the Bridge Cave. One of our new members, David Davies, has recently examined the cave and reports as follows:-

"Since our discussion about the Bridge Cave I have paid two visits to it, the first with Ralph Mountjoy (another new member), and spent about two hours there on each occasion. It seems to me there has been some change in the spot before you descend to the river proper, but I would not like to swear to it, although I think it is easier to negotiate that stretch. There is certainly nothing in the report that the passage-way is blocked. On my last excursion a fortnight ago I found the river surprisingly low as compared with previous experience and got much further downstream, beyond the far end of the main cavern, than I have been able to do before. Over on the right I was able to enter a kind of grotto from which led a tight crawl through solid rock (a water-worn course) in an upstream direction. A trickle of water flowed along it and it looked an interesting possibility!

I am sending you a couple of photographs I took on these two visits, the larger being of the roof of the main chamber (downstream) - a flashlight photo and not too successful. The other however, I consider an extremely gratifying result - a photograph of the grotto in the roof. Time exposure 5 minutes at f3.5, illuminant a small carbide flame waved to and fro.

The grotto photographed seems interesting to me because the level sometimes attained by the water shows up clearly on the line running across the photograph just above the bulbous ends of the stalactites. These bulbous ends, I take it, grow more rapidly than the stems because, when they are immersed in water, a certain amount of sediment is deposited on them. I have seen the grotto in both conditions, with water above the bulbous ends and at quite a low level. There seems to be a good depth of mud below the pool. I was distressed to find so many of these fine stalactites broken, on my last visit, by people who have been pushing into the grotto to the left of the photograph."

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NEW MEMBERS:-

Miss Muriel M. Rees, 42 Broniestyn Terrace, Aberdare, Glam.  
David H. Davies, 222 Inverness Place, Cardiff.  
Ralph Mountjoy, 28 Oxford Street, Cardiff.  
Gordon F. Radcliffe, 12 Mayfield Road, Dagenham, Essex.  
Miss Majorie Taylor, 5 Ael-y-Bryn Road, Cockett, Swansea.  
Miss Eileen Taylor, " " "  
Maurice C. Taylor " " "

CHANGED ADDRESSES:-

P. Dolphin, Overhill Cottage, Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset.  
Miss Janet Knight, 3 Heol-y-Felyn, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.  
W. Roy Midwinter, Evro, Longton Road, Knenhall, Stone, Staffs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Unpaid subscriptions for the current year are now much overdue. Will members whose subscriptions are unpaid please send 10/-d immediately to the Treasurer (address below).

TACKLE FEES:

Your committee has decided that tackle fees shall be immediately and permanently abolished.

ADDRESSES:- Will members who change their addresses please advise the Secretary promptly so that circulars and other communications will be received without delay.

PROGRAMME:- Archaeological Section:- Extended operations at Minchin Hole, High Tor, Pennard, Gower, commencing 20th August and ending 1st September.

Help is urgently required with this work. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to assist. Ted Mason and the main party will be staying at Eynon's Ford, Reynoldston, Gower (turn at Reynoldston Police Station) during this period. Those intending to visit the excavation should contact beforehand to ensure that the party will be working on the day of their visit. Those wishing to stay (under own canvas) should contact Ted Mason, at 11 Kendon Drive, Wellington Hill West, Bristol, before 20th August.

MENDIP TRIP: 24/26th August.

Party will stay at Wessex Cave Club Headquarters at Beechbarrow, Chewton Mendip. Eastwater and/or Lamp Lair will be explored. Those wishing to take part please advise the Secretary immediately.

Thanks are due to Wessex Cave Club for permission to use their H.Q.

COTTAGE CLEANING:- 1/2nd September. This work is overdue. All old caving clothes found lying at the cottage will be ruthlessly destroyed. Those wishing to salvage anything should do so before this date.

7/9th September:- Visit to Wessex Cave Club, who will be staying at the cottage.

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"Our Caves":- Your Secretary regrets there is no issue in this series with the present circular. This is entirely his fault through failure to prepare the material for duplication before Brian Price went away on holiday. It is hoped to continue as before with the next circular.

There has also been excessive delay in preparation of this circular for reasons which seem to be generally known to members. The work has been eased considerably by the gracious action of Rev. Cecil Cullingford, not only in writing what is perhaps the most comprehensive report yet published on the Forest of Dean area, but in duplicating this as well.

Other matters should have received more detailed attention but the urgent need to "go to press" prevents.

Briefly, we must not forget the arrival of Paul David Jenkins - Congratulations David! - also the CRG Meeting at Cardiff, the Dinner coupled with the noble preparations undertaken by Peggy Hardwidge and the sub-committee, and the very hard work put in by our President at the Dinner. Many thanks to all.

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The next Circular:- A number of members are at present spending unusual caving holidays - some abroad. Please send reports for the next circular. It is hoped to include a preliminary report on cave rescue operations to date.

Congratulations to Don Coase on his engagement to Clare Ainsworth during their stay at Craig-y-nos at August Bank Holiday.

Thanks are due from the Secretary and his wife to all those who have sent messages of goodwill on the occasion of their recent marriage.

Hon. Secretary:- A.H. Hill, West Winds, Hunt's Bay, Pennard, Swansea.

Hon. Treasurer:- C.E. Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

To all Members.

November 1951.

Reflections on Ffynnon Ddu Rescue.

(see also Report following page 7 of this circular)

Some time has elapsed since the rescue of Lewis Railton and Bill Little (Aug.26-27) and a few observations on the subject are overdue.

Above all there lingers a deep impression of the wonderful assistance received from all sides. Our thanks go to all who so generously gave their help, to our friends in the locality and brother cavers of Mendip and Yorkshire who responded so magnificently.

The disruption of normal daily life was considerable, and the number of people directly involved was well over one hundred. A great responsibility rests on members of the Club to avoid accident, or an occurrence of a similar nature in the future. To this end, your Committee has decided that, except under the most favourable conditions, no party to O.F.D. shall remain away from the stream passage at the far end for more than two hours, without checking water conditions. The key of the cave is now held by John Barrows at the Greithig (near the cave). He will have power to withhold the key, or to restrict the extent of a trip into the cave, if he feels that weather conditions demand this.

There has been much discussion and constructive criticism of our actions during the rescue. At the time the South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation was in process of re-organisation under the leadership of Dr. Edward Aslett. Two rescue practices had been held, and more have been held since. The C.R.O. sub-committee have been working overtime in the preparation of a revised scheme and the results of their efforts, revised in the light of recent events, may be expected in the near future. Much has been learned from the rescue. The need has been shown for better C.R.O. publicity, call-out of members, control during a rescue, contact with other C.R.O.'s and the Press.

This was the first time our C.R.O. had been called on. As our practice efforts had been devoted to the removal of an injured person and not the release of trapped men, nor an operation extending over days, we have reason for satisfaction. The successful damming of the stream at Pull Byfre was a major operation in itself without which the result might have been very different. Throughout, the most uncertain factors were the weather, the possibility of four other men having joined Railton and Little, (dispelled at 4 p.m. on the Monday), the ability of even the most experienced to withstand a prolonged period of enforced inactivity (some 50 hours) in cave conditions, the food value of emergency lifeboat rations under these conditions, and the effect of all on mental faculties. The rescued men were, in fact, far better equipped than was generally known.

If proof is needed that the large scale of the rescue operations was justified, it is found in reference to the following rainfall figures:- In the first 15 days of August 3.02" rain fell at Glyntawe. This figure increased to 5.24" by midnight of Friday the 24th August. Figures for Saturday, Sunday and Monday were respectively 1.35", 0.88" and 0.34".



On Tuesday 0.37", Wednesday 0.44" and Thursday 0.40" were recorded. The month closed with 0.10" on the Friday and the total monthly figure was 9.13". This latter figure is of interest in comparison with yearly rainfalls in 1946 - 93.33", 1947 - 64.94", 1948 - 90.00", 1949 - 66.06" and 1950 - 87.26". But for the Pwll Byfre diversion it is estimated that the rains of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday following the rescue would have kept O.F.D. in flood until late on Friday the 31st.

It is most unfortunate that John Barrows and Sylvia should have been so seriously inconvenienced by the subsequent breaking of the dam at Pwll Byfre, at the request of the farmer concerned. The water issuing from the Black Well was dirty and tainted for three weeks afterwards.

#### An approximate time-table of events of the rescue week-end:-

##### Saturday, 25th August.

- 10.45 a.m. Railton and Little entered cave and proceeded to Rawl Series. Weather fine and sunny.
- 12.00 noon. Unknown party of four enquired at Gwyn Arms for key of cave, told to leave note at entrance, bearing names, the cave being open. (No evidence of this party was found during the period of rescue - on reading of the rescue in local newspaper, one of party reported clear at 4 p.m. Monday).
- 12.30 p.m. Rain started. Continued with increasing severity to exceptionally heavy throughout the afternoon and until a short break at 8 p.m.
- 7.30 p.m. Railton and Little found passage below Low's in flood. Retired.
- 9.30 p.m. More rain. Sudden showers of extreme severity at fairly frequent intervals throughout the night.

##### Sunday, 26th August.

- 9.30 a.m. Rain cleared and except for one or two light showers, a fine sunny day followed. Flood condition at O.F.D. gave cause for anxiety. Contact of local cavers by Mrs. Railton and Police contact followed.
- 2 - 4 p.m. General call to all readily available members of S.W.C.C. (Main party working in Gower).
- 4 p.m. Gower party received call, proceeded cave.
- 6 p.m. General assembly of members at O.F.D. Water conditions examined in cave, two members in turn posted on duty at junction with stream-passage. Ladder fastened across stream-passage at East Toast Rack. Discussion on advisability of attempting a diversion at Pwll Byfre.
- 9 - 10 p.m. More rain came, sometimes heavy, mainly prolonged but moderate. Volunteers called to start Pwll Byfre diversion. Miners from district.
- 10.30 p.m. Urgent call for assistance to R.A. Sennybridge. Call for stretchers and small party from R.A.F. (St. Athan) Mountain Rescue Squad. Police brought in "walkie-talkie" apparatus for contact between P.B. party & cave.
- 12 midnight. Heavy rain on mountain hindering diversion operation.

Monday, 27th August.

- 1.30 a.m. R.A. Squad arrived, soon followed by R.A.F. (M.R.S). Work now proceeding on diversion with strong party, but under appalling conditions.
- 4.30 a.m. Leaders examined water condition in cave to see effect of diversion. Agreed to attempt to reach trapped men at dawn if weather and diversion reports favourable.
- 6 a.m. Diversion reported a failure, party withdrawing pending better weather and daylight. Rain becoming heavier.
- 7 a.m. Rain exceptionally heavy. Call to Mendip C.R.O. for assistance. Situation becoming serious.
- 7.30 a.m. Very heavy rain and thunderstorm. Volunteers called from Abercrave Colliery for diversion
- 8 a.m. Call to Yorkshire C.R.O. to send party.
- 9 a.m. Large party arrived from Abercrave Colliery, split between cave and Pwll Byfre. Followed by new party from R.A. and N.F.S. with trailer pumps for P.B. Examination of possibility of forming human chain through stream-passage. Call for pit-props to span stream-passage.. Rain clearing - indications of a fine sunny day.
- Lorries helping at P.B. Call for bull-dozer. Field telephone installed in cave.
- 11.30 a.m. Arrival of members of Press and public. Weather fine, hot and sunny.
- 12.45 p.m. First members of M.R.O. arrived followed by all others in next two hours. Examination of stream-passage -
- & 4 p.m. water impossible. Diversion reported highly successful.
- 4 p.m. Rumour of four others in cave dispelled.
- 6 p.m. Full assault on stream-passage to reach Railton and Little. Water conditions 'exciting'.
- 8 - 8.30 p.m. Railton and Little emerged from cave.
10. p.m. Arrival of Yorkshire C.R.O.

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Report from B. D. PRICE, October 3rd 1951.

14-4-51. Walked round head of Dyffryn Cwannon with local farmer. Saw Ogof Pyrgad. Was shown two other possibilities. One is low tunnel, needs usual digging, at base of cliff below the old disused power station. The other is actual cave entrance in bluff W. of power station. Did not explore. "goes in a little way".

21-4-51. Dug at end of cave in Quimps Quarry. Not much done. Decided to give the cave the official name "Ogof Ddwysir" meaning Two Counties Cave. It is in Monmouthshire, but only just.

25-4-51. Was told in Trefil that Pwll Pyrs (the pothole near Ogof Ap Robert on the moors W. of Trefil) has a cave at its base. (In millstone-grit A.H.H.).

6-6-51. Last March had noticed oval hole in roof of main chamber of Glwys Faen, near far end. Borrowed ladder (12' minimum) and scaled hole. Wedged two hawthorn branches (fresh cut) to make matters easier. Hole goes up another 15', then two passages in opposite directions, leading into regions of considerable solution, where vertical joints have been dissolved. Did not venture through several very nasty looking slots. Appears to be merely local system of percolation, but it may give the key to a further series.

2-9-51. Down Agen Allwedd with two Chichester visitors staying at hut - one David Seagrave is one of the original discoverers. We dug hard in the mud chamber connecting with Ogof Gam, succeeded in breaking the seal and looking through, but bags more work needed. A blast of air rushed inwards. Bucket for baling left. All excavations fill with the water which runs through.

5-9-51. Partly surveyed Ogof Clogwyn Grade 4. Others found and explored high passage which is backward continuation of last long stretch, "went a long way", thought they came back near cliff again.

June. Back in January we had observed bare patch in snow on scree just West of Agen Allwedd, near large elder tree. Snow melted on touching scree. Digging had drawn blank as the task was too great. Mr. Bevan of Pen Rhiw told us of blocked fox hole near there, and we found it only a few yards directly above the former bare patch. There seems to be considerable hope for a large gang with wheelbarrow, but something in the nature of a 'coke shovel' is required.

July. When on visit to National Museum, met gent. in Geology Dept. who mentioned a discovery he had made near Ogof Ci (Pontsarn). On visiting Ogof Ci district I found very small hole on earth bank up R. bank of river. Did not enter (If I could??) Is it possible that this is a new find? He mentioned some fine formations. As usual lack of time and an adult companion prevents me from investigating.

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#### Overland route to Rawl Series, Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

Excellent news is contained in a letter from Bill Little, dated 18th October, regarding progress in the discovery and forcing of a dry route to the Rawl Series. Aided by the high grade survey which they have been making of the cave, Lewis Railton and Bill Little, with the assistance of others, have made great progress in eliminating the uncertainties of the streampassage. This work is described by Bill Little as follows:-

"Near 'Wire Traverse' in the Maypole Series is the most upstream window over Stream-passage in that series. From this window, a narrow, sloping, slimy ledge runs 30 ft. above the stream for a distance of 70 ft. Two pitons (pogs) were used to negotiate it. This was severe by rock-climbing standards. One piton is badly situated. This traverse (I suggest Travesty Traverse for a name) ends at a platform of fallen blocks (Crows Nest). 6 ft. higher than these blocks and over the stream a 4 ft. diameter tube slopes upwards and was entered by using two sections of the Maypole. This passage is climbable and after 30 ft.

ives way to a small chamber. The passage goes northwards and upwards (say 25 deg slope) and then divides. The right-hand path goes into a boulder choke which was not penetrated to any depth. The left-hand path, which steepens immediately, leads on for 50ft. or so, still north and into a boulder chaos through which access was made to Rawl Series between Pillar Chamber and Phil's Parade.

A temporary wire rope fixed along Travesty Traverse cannot be regarded as safe, but can be used by a person accustomed to climbing, as a balance hold. The poles were left in place at Crows Nest. It is the intention of Railton and myself to make this part safe as soon as possible, with suitable ironmongery.

A temporary rescue route now exists to the Rawl Series although it is not yet a 'flood exit' since ropes etc. are required, and also without assistance from outside one cannot yet escape from Maypole Series during a flood. The completion of the Swiss Cottage dig will, however, complete this flood exit. (It is reported that this has now been done, which means that Maypole Series can be entered from Coral Pool leg of Column Series - A.H.H.)

At present the following course must be taken by a rescue party to bring (or lead) anyone out who has been trapped by flood in Rawl Series:-

1. Take usual route to Column Chamber.
2. Syphon or bale out Column Pool (now unnecessary - use Swiss Cottage / Maypole connection instead - A.H.H.)
3. Ladder Eagles Nest and
4. Ladder down to Little Traverse
5. Crawl through intermediate passage to Wire Traverse and Maypole Series  
(3, 4 & 5 now also unnecessary)
6. From top window cross Travesty Traverse to Crows Nest.
7. Climb pole into sloping passage and fix rope (for later descent)
8. Enter Rawl Series via left-hand passage. (Black arrows in reverse indicate route through boulders).

Since emergency food stocks are no longer necessary in Rawl Series, may I suggest that they are placed in Waterfall Series. You will, of course, see that in event of persons being trapped in Waterfall Series, a rescue party could proceed as far as Low's Passage, via Rawl Series. The higher part of the 'flood stream' would then have to be negotiated, but this will subside earlier than the main stream."

Bill Little.

During the same week-end (12 - 14 Oct.) the pool was drained in the Railton/Wild Series, and passage beyond was explored by Railton and Peggy Hardwidge.

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"BRITISH CAVER". Vol.22 will be published early in December. Price 6/6d from G. Platten, Rotherfield, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, HANTS.

CAVE RESCUE PRACTICE will be held on 25th November at Penybont, at 10.30 a.m.

Cave Rescue Group of Great Britain.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Lecture Theatre of the CITY MUSEUM, Queens Road, Bristol, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, 17th November.

All members of S.W.C.C. may attend.

Hotels recommended:- Hawthorns. Tel: 374251.  
Elmdale. Tel: 25563.

Services 1, 20, 22, buses run from opposite G.W.R. Station (Temple Meads) to the Museum.

On Sunday, 18th November, the Bristol Exploration Club is organising a caving expedition in the Mendips for CRG. Details will be given at the meeting.

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NEW MEMBERS:-

D. G. BRITTON, 12 St. John's Terrace, Neath Abbey, Glam.  
GILBERT BRADSHAW, 1 Isaac Walk, St. John's, Worcester.  
LESLIE A. HAWES, c/o 19 Ryelands St. Hereford.  
RAYMOND G. WHINFREY, 7 Sketty Road, Uplands, Swansea.  
RAYMOND G. WOOD, 2 Penylan Terrace, Cardiff.  
RAYMOND WALLIS, Briarcroft, Marlborough Crescent, Latchford W.O.,  
Warrington, Lancs.  
RICHARD J. STANLEY, Kenton, London Road, Shrewsbury.

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CORRECTION OF ADDRESS:-

MISS JANET KNIGHT, 1 Heol-y-Felyn, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS:-

ARTHUR PRICE, 169 Hinckley Road, Leicester.  
DAVID W. JENKINS, Dinmore, Duffryn Road, Llandrindod Wells, Rads.  
MRS. DAVID JENKINS, " " " " " "

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:- A large number of subscriptions remain outstanding. All those members who have not paid please send 10/- to the Treasurer at the address below, and thus save him the task of reminding them.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ken Leadbeater on the arrival of a son.

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BIRMINGHAM CAVE & CRAG CLUB:- We acknowledge with grateful thanks the gift of £10. --d. from the Birmingham Cave & Crag Club as an appreciation of our efforts during the rescue of Lewis Raiton and Bill Little who are also members of that Club.

This sum has been placed in a special fund under the care of the South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation Committee, and urgently needed equipment has already been purchased with it.

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Your Secretary and his wife convey to all members their sincere thanks for the very generous wedding present of a canteen of cutlery.

This will be a constant reminder to them of the many friends they have in the Club.

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RECORDS OFFICER:- Will members please note the Records Officer has moved to a new address:-

DAVID W. JENKINS,  
"Dinmore",  
Duffryn Road,  
Llandrindod Wells,  
Rads.

Members are reminded that their co-operation is required to build up records of all our caves. It does not matter whether the cave is large or small, it may not be known or recorded, a few brief details will help and particularly location.

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Hon. Secretary:- A. H. HILL, West Winds, Hunt's Bay, Pennard, Swansea.

Hon. Treasurer:- C. E. HILL, Penlee, Heol Caerhys, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

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A REPORT BY C.L.RAILTON AND W.H.LITTLE ON EXPERIENCES IN OGOF FFYNNON

DDU, AUGUST 25th. TO 27th. 1951.

SYNOPSIS.

This report details the pertinent preliminary information regarding the cave, the persons involved, the conditions, the food available, together with the experiences of the trapped men. Appendices give recommendations concerning emergency supplies and procedure.

THE CAVE.

The entrance passages of the cave are dry after which the main passage is traversed by a stream for some 400 yards. Under normal conditions the stream enters the cave from a flooded passage some 100 yards from the far end of the main passage, thus leaving this 100 yards relatively dry. From this 'dry' section two extensive series of passages radiate. One of these the RAWL series in which we were trapped, is at the end of Low's Passage which is entered by a vertical climb of 10 feet from the main passage. This is followed by a steep scramble up a boulder slope leading to an extensive series of spacious dry passages that are about 150 feet above the main passage. In three parts of this high level system trickles of water enter under normal conditions. Due to the size and bends of the passages the sound of these trickles and that of the main stream is not audible except when fairly near to them.

The main stream passage meanders considerably and at stream level varies in width between about 3 and 8 feet, while the height varies between 12 and 60 feet. The floor is of rock, sometimes level, sometimes sloping. In places there are many small holes up to 3 feet deep. In four places there are holes some 7 feet diameter and up to 15 feet deep. These are usually traversed by placing a steel tube across each one and shuffling ones feet along it while balancing with ones hands on a wall. The water flows towards the entrance and its force is such that with a depth of 1 foot progress is almost impossible either up or down stream. On occasions of heavy rain the stream in the passage runs some 4 to 6 feet deep. Under such conditions the tubes across the water filled holes are swept away.

The passages of the RAWL system are well ventilated by a thermal air system. There are no running streams that could give indication of rainfall by their rising. This absence of a danger warning was appreciated and led to the leaving of emergency rations in the system; these are detailed later.

THE PERSONS INVOLVED.

W.H.Little is 31 years old. He has had considerable experience of mountaineering and rock climbing. He has been caving regularly for 4 years in Derbyshire, Mendip and S.Wales. He has been into every part of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. He has assisted considerably with the survey and was one of the original discoverers of the Rawl series. He is sound, steady and not excitable.

C.L.Railton is 44 years old and has been caving regularly except for the war years since 1934. He is familiar with many caves in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Mendips, S.Wales, France and Norway. He has been carrying out a detailed survey of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and has spent approximately 1000 hours

in the cave. He is also steady and not easily excited. Both men are cool and level headed in emergency.

#### CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.

When entering the cave both members went up stream passage with a minimum of clothing around legs and feet. Little had borrowed a girls rubber lined mack and Railton had a short waterproof jacket to protect upper garments from drips during the journey. On reaching the dry series all wet garments were removed and dry ones put on.

These comprised woollen underpants reaching to ankles, thick woollen vest with sleeves to elbows, woollen bathing trunks, thick woollen shirt, woollen polo-neck sweater, two pairs woollen socks, climbing boots, boiler suit, (U.S.A. coverall, French combinaisons de toile de lin) and miners helmets. For lights, Railton had a 3.5 volt Life accumulator and was using a 0.3 amp bulb giving light for some 30 hours. Little had a miners acetylene cap lamp with spare carbide to give 20 hours light, in addition he had an electric torch with approximately 6 hours light. The survey equipment included an electric lamp with 6 hours light. In addition we had 8 candles and four watertight containers each holding about 2 dozen matches. Spare bulbs were carried as well as spares for carbide lamp and veganin tablets. Railton was wearing a waterproof watch. Little had 14 cigarettes and a watch in a waterproof container.

#### FOOD.

Long experience of the slow movement entailed when surveying or photographing showed need for hot food when in a cave for more than 6 hours so on this as on previous occasions the following food etc. was taken into the cave :-

- 1 Saucepan
- 1 Tin solid fuel containing 8 tablets each sufficient for boiling  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints of water.
- 2 Cups. 2 Spoons, 1 Knife, a tin opener.
- 1 Tin Scotch Broth.
- 1 lb Bread.
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Butter.
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Cheese.
- 1 Tin full cream sweetened condensed milk.
- 1 Small bottle coffee essence.
- 4 ozs. Chocolate biscuits.
- 4 ozs. Milk chocolate.
- 2 ozs. malted milk tablets.

The emergency rations etc. cached in the cave comprised :-

- 1 Tin Scotch Broth.
- 1 Tin solid fuel, 1 Tin opener, 1 Small pick, 1 lb carbide.
- 4 ozs. sugar, 8 candles, 1 bottle of water for acetylene lamps.
- 2 Tins U.S. Life Boat rations each containing :-
  - 12 biscuits = 9 ozs., 4 2oz. blocks of chocolate,
  - 8 ozs. malted milk tablets, 2  $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins of fruit 'Pemmican' (nuts, fruit, sugar, salt and dextrose.)



## EVENTS.

We entered the cave at 10.45 Saturday after saying that we expected to be out at about 20.00 hours. Survey work commenced about 11.45. At 14.00 hours we had a break for lunch consisting of a tin of hot soup with bread, some bread butter and cheese, chocolate biscuits and cups of hot coffee. We returned and completed the survey of Phils Parade and then started to make our way out. There was a deluge of water descending at the end of bridge passage where at lunch time there had been the usual trickle. Lows passage was reached at 19.30 hours. Looking down from the top of the 10 foot climb it was estimated that flood water some 2 feet deep was rushing past in main passage. (This section of main passage normally has only a mere trickle of water).

There was a great temptation to sit and watch this water, firstly to see whether it was rising or falling and secondly because of its fascination. Below the 10 foot climb the main passage makes a sharp right turn, the water rushing past us down the slope was striking the left hand wall of the bend, sweeping up and turning over like the bow-wave of a ship doing 25 knots. The noise made conversation difficult and the draught was considerable.

We promptly returned to Sand passage, filling our saucepan on the way in Lows chamber. The water bottle was drained, washed out and refilled from the saucepan and with the remaining water we made hot coffee and had some bread and butter. We considered continuing survey work but as this would have involved the simultaneous use of at least 3 lights as well as increasing our need for food the idea was dropped. Sand passage was the obvious choice of resting place because the sandy floor was remarkably dry by English caving standards and there is ample room to stand up and walk about, while the passage is absolutely dead silent. Its only disadvantage was the very slight draught due to thermocirculation.

For lying down a small bay some 3 feet high and 8 feet wide was considered best. To eliminate the draught, stones from a ledge near by and sand from the floor were used to build a wall about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high across the front of the bay; a gap being left for entering and leaving. The small pick from the emergency cache proved a valuable aid for this operation. We had with us a waterproof canvas carrying bag of such a shape and size that Railton could just get his legs and bottom inside providing legs were folded up tightly. While this offered some warmth ones legs soon became cramped and stiff. Sand was banked up for a pillow and pieces of dry rag were used to cover it. Little wrapped himself up in the waterproof Mack. We covered our faces with our handkerchiefs to conserve warmth and lay down as close together as possible; for economy our lights were extinguished. We talked much and almost entirely about what was happening on the surface, what conditions would be like in other parts of the cave, what our friends would be thinking and doing and whether the water would be down by noon on Sunday as we expected and hoped. After about 2 hours we were shivering so we lit a candle and held our hands over and round it and after about 15 minutes we felt much warmer. Thus the time was passed by lying in the dark, warming our hands, and going into the sand passage to walk around and stretch our legs. Neither of us have any recollection of sleeping.

At 07.00 hours on Sunday we opened a tin of lifeboat rations and had half a tin of fruit pemmican as well as 2 biscuits and butter each.

Two blocks of chocolate were made into enough hot cocoa for two large cups each. A trip was made to Lows passage, the rucksack containing survey equipment was placed where it could be seen from the main passage below and on it was fixed a large sheet of paper stating exactly where we could be found. This was also used to record times and water levels. A separate record was kept of our meals. We refilled the saucepan and returned to our resting place. We then had the idea of lying face to face with the cape spread over us with sufficient space between us to place a lighted candle or Little's acetylene lamp. This not only warmed our hands and stomachs but also the air we were breathing and our faces. Due to breathing a candle soon guttered which was wasteful apart from being easily knocked over. It was found safer and more economical to put pieces of candle in a small shallow tin (half pemmican tin) with a piece of string for a wick. This was now kept going except for the short periods when we lay back to back or in some other position to relieve our limbs. Something less than an hour without the flame reduced the temperature sufficiently to cause shivering.

13.00 hours Sunday.

Lunch, 3 biscuits and butter and hot coffee each.

Visit to Lows passage to replenish water supply and examine flood water. Flood higher than previously seen. Messages indicating that we were dry and O.K. were printed on both sides of pieces of white card. These were tossed into the stream at short intervals in the hopes that someone may see them. The fascination of the rushing water was very strong while the roar of sound booming around the lofty passage (estimated 70 feet high) was awe inspiring but disturbing to the nerves. We did not stay there long and admitted to each other later that we had a strong temptation to jump into the flood and be whisked away towards the entrance. We found that we had each thought that the other must not be left on his own when near the water. We returned to sand passage and admitted that we both had headaches so we had mugs of hot water with condensed milk in and vitamin tablets each before returning to our resting place. Resting and conversation as before. Headaches departed and we felt much better.

22.45 hours Sunday.

Had tin of hot Scotch Broth and the last of our bread between us. Visited Lows passage. Flood water down to about 4 inches deep. Estimated that below where main water enters the stream would still be about 3 feet deep and therefore impassable. Returned to our resting place expecting to be able to get out first thing in the morning.

A suggestion was made that we should dig a trench in the sand to lie in, the sack being spread over the top thereby confining the heat better. Second thoughts suggested that the sand would be damper lower down, so the idea was not carried out. Shortly after this discussion, when lying with the flame between us, we noticed that the flame was gradually going out. We immediately realised that our bodies and the sand pillow were forming a small shallow well which was filling with CO<sub>2</sub>. A slight separation of our legs cleared this trouble. This incident brought home to us what could have happened had we dug a trench and lay down in it with our flame. We kept the flame going properly until we felt drowsy when we put it out. We both slept for about 2½ hours and awoke feeling very cold. Flame relit

to warm up; it was then put out and we slept again, Procedure repeated. We estimate that we slept for a total of 6 hours.

08.00 hours Monday.

In good spirits. Used two bars of chocolate to make 4 cups of cocoa and had  $\frac{1}{2}$  tin pemmican and 1 biscuit each. Then packed up our things and took them down to Lows, fully expecting to be able to go out of the cave. Flood waterback up to Saturday night level. Great temptation to sit and watch whether it was rising or falling. This was resisted and we returned to lie down.

The air current in sand passage was noted to be very slight indicating a cold, dull or wet day on the surface. Decided that in future Little must use his electric lamp when moving about to conserve carbide for heating. Food and fuel situation considered, as well as likely rescue measures that would now be brought into operation in view of the obviously bad weather outside and the time we had been trapped. On the assumption that a good team of diggers got started by mid-day, we estimated that they would complete the necessary damming and trench cutting to divert the stream at Pwll Byfre by early Tuesday morning, in which case we should be out by Tuesday noon. It was decided to keep food consumption up to the present level up to Monday night to ensure that we would be strong enough to get out without much assistance on Tuesday. If the water was not well down on Tuesday morning it would indicate that diversion tactics were not being successful and that passage bridging would have to be brought into operation, in which case the food left after Monday night would have to be eaked out for Tuesday and Wednesday. Candles and carbide should last to same time on Wednesday.

15.00 hours Monday.

Lunch, Cocoa made with one bar of chocolate and 3 biscuits and butter each. Visit to Lows. Water down to about 4 inches deep again. We estimated that if it continued to go down it would be at least 7 hours before it would be wise to attempt stream passage on our own. We therefor returned to rest with the intention of having a tin of pemmican, biscuits and cocoa at about 22.00 hours and then examine conditions.

At about 18.00 hours neither of us felt too good, our stomachs were aching and rumbling badly and we both had headaches which were not improved by putting our heads on our hard pillow. We were both longing for our next meal and for the last of our vitamin tablets which we would have with it.

At about 19.30 hours the first of our rescuers appeared. As we passed our feeding quarters I opened a tin of pemmican which Little and I shared. In Lows passage we were offered hot sweet black coffee and sandwiches. We both drank coffee but had no desire for the food, so did not have any.

We were both fit enough to get out of the cave, get back to the temporary headquarters and change undried. We felt very weary and had not our normal appetites the next day, but after this we soon returned to normal, and have since suffered no ill effects.

C.L.Railton.

W.H.Little.

OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

OF BEING TRAPPED IN OGOF FFYNNON DDU, S. WALES, FOR 58 HOURS.

Cave Temperature 48°F. Humidity about 99%

1. A reliable watch must be carried or cached. If there is insufficient food for a normal ration for two or three days, one will still be hungry after each meal. When just lying and waiting time passes so slowly that one hour seems like 5 or 6 hours: without a watch three days ration would be consumed within 12 hours.
2. When exploring a cave in which entrapment due to rising water is possible, ensure that warm dry clothing is available.
3. If a cache of food and equipment is being placed in the cave, at least the following is important:-
  - a. Some sort of spirit or paraffin stove with sufficient fuel.
  - b. At least one saucepan and one other container for water.
  - c. At least two cups or mugs (not of metal)
  - d. A very good supply of candles.
  - e. An acetylene lamp, plenty of extra carbide and spares including pricklers for clearing jets.
  - f. A good supply of matches in at least three or four containers which must be moistureproof. Each container should contain a piece of material on which to strike matches. A container, after being opened and closed about twelve times in an atmosphere of high humidity will become sufficiently damp inside to render the matches and striker useless. Remember that containers will not be kept warm in pockets due to discomfort when lying on them.
  - g. One or two shallow tins to serve as lamps. Candle wax burnt in these with a piece of string as a wick is more economical and safer than burning a candle normally.
  - h. At least one small sharp knife, 2 spoons and a tin opener.
  - i. A small pick or trenching tool to facilitate levelling ground, building draught wall etc.
  - j. Supply of aspirin for headaches.
  - k. Toilet paper.
  - l. Note paper and pencil to leave messages, to record events, food eaten etc. Such notes may be of help to other cavers, doctors etc.
  - m. String.
  - n. A watch or some means of measuring time.
  - o. A tin of cigarettes.
  - p. Food. All food should be tinned with the tins protected against rust. Most foods with the exception of such things as dried fruit and nuts should be of the type that are easily heated. There should be a supply of tinned dry biscuits, full-cream sweetened condensed milk, soup, beans, meat, coffee essence, sugar, glucose D., chocolate (this can be cut up and made into cocoa), malted milk tablets, boiled sweets such as Barley sugar or acid drops. Too much liquid and not enough bulk causes flatulence and stomach pains.



## SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

To all Members

February.1952.

### 1. Committee. Co-option

In an attempt to relieve our hard-working Secretary, the Committee have co-opted ~~as~~<sup>an</sup> Assistant Secretary. David Hunt having kindly accepted the responsibility will now act in that capacity. Will members in future please address all official communications to the Assistant Secretary at 19 Spring Street, Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.

### 2. Cottage Fees.

Will members please note that cottage fees are now at a flat rate of 1/3d per night per member and 2/- per night per guest all the year.

### 3. Programme.

It has been decided to re-commence monthly club meets, each meet to be held on the first week-end in each month. The first of such meets will be held on Sunday, 2nd March.

R.V. on road above Porth-yr-ogof Map.Ref.O.S.1. Sheet Brecon 927124 at 1100 hours, Sunday 2nd March. It is hoped that a good many members will attend, and, if possible, fore-gather for a social evening at the pub in Ystradfellte on Saturday evening. Accomodation can be booked individually at "The White Horse" Pont-Neath-Vaughan near Glynneath, Glam. but The Youth Hostel at Ystradfellte will be available for members of that Organization on Saturday night. Members can join the Y.H.A. at the Hostel and can then introduce two other members as guests, subject to the payment of the usual fees.

### 4. New Publications.

A book which will interest all members has just been published by The National Museum of Wales, Author, our President, Dr. F.J. North. "Welsh Scenery Illustrated and Explained" contains on every page a photographic illustration of a topographical feature of welsh scenery, accompanied by a short, non-technical, geological explanation. Two examples of cave scenery are included. This book is well worth the 2/6d. which it costs. Obtainable from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff or any of the principal Booksellers.

The Rev. Cyril Cullingford another of our Members, has written a book on caving, primarily intended for the young cavers.

A short review will be given in the next News-Letter.

5. C. R. G.

Advance notice has been received of this organizations two General Meetings for 1952. First meeting, Skipton, Yorkshire. on either 26th April, 3rd May or 10th May. Second Meeting, Wells, Somerset 21st June.

A caving expedition will follow each meeting. Further details later.

6. Members Activities.

Member leaves for Antarctic:

Max Unwin has departed from caving circles for a period of 2 years - to go to the Antarctic as Assistant Geologist. This, no doubt, is the reason for the luxuriant crop of whiskers which he was cultivating a little while ago! Max has requested that his regards be conveyed to all his caving friends. We wish him good luck and a safe return. Those wishing to write to Max can still address letters to "Oaklands" Staines Hill, Stumy, Kent.

New Explorations:

Ord. Sur. 1" Sheet 153 to mile. Ref. 2596/1888.  
Report from the Taylors.

On Saturday, 1st December, 1951 we found a most interesting site near Murton, where a comparatively large stream rising on clyne common runs to earth in a number of places at the base of a surprisingly large limestone cliff in a tree lined cwm.

The cliff is about 20' high and 50' long and there are two small connecting cave passages in the right hand side near the base.

Unfortunately, although we spent some time digging around the base of the cliff where the water disappears we made little progress as at this time of the year any excavation one makes is almost immediately filled up again with mud and leaves which lie extremely thickly there. However, with the advent of dry weather we feel it would be well worth while to continue the good work.

DIRECTIONS

Take Newton road from Murton village - this road makes a definite S bend about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from Murton. At this place a small side road leads left past some scattered houses. Go up this road until a gate leading to a field is seen on the right-hand side, which is just after one passes another gate set at an angle into a left

("The Taylors" namely Maurice Clague Taylor, Marjorie Taylor and Eileen Taylor of Swansea are comparatively recent, but keen, Club Members. They have reported what they thought to be a new cave at Bwa Maen, near Wills Hole. We believe, in actual fact, this cave has previously been visited by members, but, in view of the clarity of the description and the excellent plan supplied, it is hoped to publish the Taylors report in a future issue of "Our Caves" )

7. Comment.

8. New Member LIONEL WILLIAM GREENWOOD,  
Highbury,  
Hillside Cres. Uplands,  
Swansea.

Members will no doubt have noticed that this Circular has lacked the accomplished literary style of presentation of previous News-Letters. This is due to the fact that overwork has caused our Secretary to leave this matter in the hands of your Chairman and Hon. Treasurer who are abundantly cognizant of their deficiencies in the literary arts.

Hon. Treasurer. COLIN E.HILL. "Penlee" Heol Caerhys,  
Rhiwbina, Cardiff.