

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Newsletter No. 26

August 1964

SECRETARIAL NOTICES

Keele University course

Applications may still be made to join this course. Forms, available from Pedro, should be returned direct to University to arrive not later than mid-September.

Pot Holing

A new book, "Potholing; Beneath the Northern Pennines" by David Heap (Routledge and Kegan Paul 35s.) is advertised as containing accounts of descents of Yorkshire Potholes and an analysis of the appeal of the sport. The author led a Cambridge University C C expedition to Arctic Norway and a Kendal C C trip to the Pyrenees in 1953. The same Publisher is also responsible for British Caving, still available at 75s.

1965 Year book and Diary.

The Speleological Year book and Diary will again be published in 1965. The size remains unaltered (8½" x 5½") and while having fewer pages is alleged to contain more information. Copies pre-paid and ordered before August 31st 1964 are available at 13/6d each. Copies ordered after this date will be 14/6d. Details available from Pedro.

Half Yearly meeting and Annual Dinner.

As already announced, the H.Y.G.M & Dinner will be held on Oct. 10th. an improved menu - with Turkey as main course - is planned. The price remains same at £1 per head. All order accompanied by cash must reach Pedro by September 17th, Please.

Colour Slides.

The group is to make a collection of slides for reference and Lecture purposes. The Group will arrange to copy any suitable slides taken by Members. Offers to Pedro, Please.

Cottage.

The Committee reminds members that the cottage/^{Warden.} was elected to supervise the erection of the new building, and whilst he welcomes constructive advice - he makes the decisions. In other words it is essential that if one wall leans drunkenly - they all do.

The purchase of timber for floor etc almost exhausts the Cottage Purchase Fund, and **YOUR GENEROSITY** will be all that will give the cottage an inside as well as an outside; Women members note particularly.

Scout Caving Group

The S.C.G has been reformed with the following Officers; Chairman and Secretary Arthur Cox, Treasurer; Barrie Ottewill, Tackle Master; Geoff. Davies. Its function is only to provide leaders for Novice Scouts from the Home Counties. Volunteers to occasionally lead parties should contact the Chairman and Secretary.

C.R.G Publications.

Members of member clubs (us) receive discount of some C.R.G Publications. Catalogues are held by Secretary and Recorder.

Opening Time Disease.

By our special Medical Correspondent.

Reports of the incidence of this disease in Agen Allwedd (Newsletter 25) should not alarm members or discourage them from caving.

Statistical evidence shows that those on the surface catch it just as quickly as those underground, and above ground its most severe effects are, in fact, suffered more quickly. For the guidance of members the symptoms of the underground variety are as follows; unquenchable thirst between two and four hours after entering the cave; sudden unreasonable hatred of cold water; physical abhorrence of slimy foul ~~and~~; rapid dimming of lights. Only cure is to get lost, or for lying leader to tell you that there is a barrel at inner end of cave. Also recommended, rapidly make way to nearest medicine shop for six pints of medicine. See Pedro for details.

Forthcoming Meets.

August 29th/30th

South Wales; Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and Pwll Pant Mawr. Accomodation has been booked at the luxurious HQ of the S.W.C.C at Penwyllt.

October 10/11th

Half yearly general meeting followed by the Annual Dinner at the Star Hotel, Wells.

It is hoped that the Marquis of Bath will be able to attend. The Secretary is applying for a Bar extension.

October 17/18th.

Rescue practice - South Wales; This year the annual London Cave Rescue Organisation practice rescue will be from Agen Allwedd. The usual good turn out of M.C.G members is anticipated.

October 30/Nov. 1st.

Keel University course on the "Origin and developement of British Caves".

November 14th

C.R.G Annual General Meeting at Skipton, Yorkshire. The M.C.G is a member club of the C.R.G and all members are therefore invited to attend.

Summer 1965.

Club visit to Ireland.

"Caves of Mendip" and "Caves of Wales and the Marches" are available at cut rates from Pedro.

Surveys

Surveys may now be ordered through Barrie as Mike Rennie is unable to attend our Thursday meetings. Surveys available include all major systems of Mendip as well as our own surveys of Pine Tree Pot; Ubley Hill Pot etc.

DO YOU BELONG TO A CAVING CLUB?

Since we lost our old headquarters the number of members who have visited Mendip has been only a small fraction of our membership. Of those who have been so ambitious, fewer still have appeared more than once or twice.

If the hardships of camping - in a tent or even in the equalour of a hay filled lorry, next door to a cafe - is too much for our members, then this short break without a cottage has been useful in showing up who is really interested in the Club, let those who maintain they have an interest in caves, digs, surveying, Mendip, or the Hunters show it by helping the small band of enthusiasts who carry on.

A certain amount of friction will obviously occur if the whole burden of our digs and cottage building falls on the few. It is only reasonable to hope that club members will help club projects whenever they can. Some of our members do not appear to have been active for many many months. Their help would be of great value.

REVIEW

"Studies in Speleology. Vol. 1. Part 1."

At long last, the first 'journal' of the A.P.C.R.C has been published. This publication should help dispel the many pessimists and antagonists of that organisation. It is true that an unfortunate bias towards the biological sciences occurs in this first issue, but the quality of the articles and the presentation have set very high standards. Future 'studies', it is hoped, will present a more balanced review of speleological knowledge and research.

The underlying theme to the articles is conservation in its broadest sense. 'Conservation has been defined as the widest use of natural resources'. We must surely wish the Association success in their efforts to present to the caving public this new high level of caving literature and their purpose of education in matters of conservation. The main articles deal with a variety of subjects ranging from Bats (J. H. D. Hooper) to Interpretation of Archaeological deposits in caves (Dr. A. Rosenfeld). There is also a fascinating account of a cave dwelling New Zealand glow worm, and an interesting account of the work of the Nature Conservancy of Gt. Britain with reference to caves. I am sure it is not widely known that such well known systems as Swildons, St. Guthberts, and Stoke Lane are protected by the Conservancy.

Dr. A. J. Sutcliffe should be congratulated for the months of hard work he has put into the Association and this publication. Copies are available free to members or 25s to non-members.

JOURNAL

As typing of the plates for our next Journal should be completed within a week or two any outstanding contributions would be appreciated forthwith. However, there is still time to write something. If our Journal is to reach the standard of the previous one then more articles of general caving interest should be included. The presentation is such that additional pages can be easily added.

All items for the next newsletter should reach the editor by August 31st. As I shall be on holiday until the 6th. Sept. items should be handed to Pedro in my absence, as he has agreed to handle any editorial matters for this period.

It is hoped to start a new high grade survey of a reasonably large Mendip system, probably in September and quite a few volunteers will be required for this project which will no doubt carry on for some time. Anybody interested, with or without experience please contact Barrie. Mike Rennie will be arranging the initial trips under his general leadership.

The Club has a regular monthly advert in the Climber Magazine so that we will be more generally known to interested people. So far the response has been disappointing, and we should consider other ways to make ourselves known. We do not want to open our doors regardlessly to new members, but we must make the effort to ensure a continuing supply of younger members.

It might be an idea if every member introduced a guest during the next few months. If there is any prospective member who should read this, and is known to the club, and who desires membership, all he has to do is complete an application form available from the Secretary.

The next Committee meeting has been arranged on Monday September 14th at 18, Oxford Road North, Chiswick, W.4 - time 8 p.m.

The 4th International Congress Of Speleology will be taking place in September 1965 at Postojna and Ljubljana in Jugoslavia a preliminary circular has been received by the Editor and he will be pleased to pass on any information.