

THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP.

NEWSLETTER NO. 30.

JANUARY, 1965.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

All right, 1964, the year in the wilderness when the M.C.G.'s sole representatives on Mendip were 27 concrete blocks at the Stirrup Cup, is over. This is 1965, the year when, unless more novices receive encouragement and more members visit Somerset to cave and dig, there will be no more M.C.G.

Here are some new year resolutions for YOU. How about resolving to buy the Secretary a pint for each of these resolutions you break?

1. Visit Somerset at least once a month.
2. Visit a few of those caves you talk about so often.
3. Dig a few new ones.
4. Go surveying - Browne's Hole is just waiting for you.
5. Talk to EVERYONE on Thursdays WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER. Unless they receive encouragement and benevolent interest there will not be much of a group in a year or so.
6. Read something from the Library.
7. Attend the Annual and half-yearly meetings.
(Mar. 27th. and Oct. 23rd)
8. DO THIS FIRST... pay your subscription. NOW.

"CAVES OF MENDIP"

A new and revised edition of this guidebook to the Mendip caves has just been published. Copies are available from the

Secretary at special rates.

COTTAGE ELECTRICITY

Reasonable sums inserted in the electricity meter on Mendip may be recovered from the Treasurer or deducted from cottage fees.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions for 1965 fell due on January 1st.

Members and probationary members over 18 pay 21/-; under 18, 6/- and Associate member 10/6d. Payment should be made to the Treasurer, Ian Leake, 35, West Towers, Pinner, Middx., and cheques, P.O.s, etc. should be made payable to the Mendip Caving Group.

LIFELINES - ALWAYS

- in Notts Pot, a trip by the Northern Cavern and Mine Research Society - "As the pitch was only 25ft. deep, we decided not to use a lifeline.....seconds later we were shocked by a large crash..... she suffered a fractured pelvis, broken thumb and cuts..... she hopes to be caving again in six months." There's a moral here somewhere!

SCIENTIFIC CAVING

The Association of the Pengelly Cave Research Centre is still seeking more members. The objects of the Association are to further cave conservation and encourage speleological study and research. The Centre is at Buckfastleigh in Devon.

Members receive "Studies on Speleology", the Association's annual Journal and newsletters. The annual subscription is £1 payable to Mike Rennie, 48, Bradley Gardens, London W.13.

The Association is running a programme of Lectures at the

Physics Dept., Imperial College, Prince Consort Rd., S.W.7.

The lectures are as follows -

Jan. 23th Caves in Danger. David Attenborough and G. Black.

Jan. 27th. The Fossil Karst in Derbyshire. Trevor Ford.

Feb. 17th. Painted Caves of France and Spain
G. Stevking.

Mar. 3rd. Resistivity Survey for cavities in Devonian Limestone
at Bickfastleigh. Colin Bristow.

Mar. 17th. Bats and Bat Studies. John Hooper.

Lectures start at 8 p.m. except the last which is at 6 p.m.

Admission FREE WITHOUT TICKET.

PEDRO'S NEW YEAR FAIRY STORY

And now, kiddiwinkies, I will tell you about the infant that was born in Bristol last Saturday afternoon. It will be named the Council of Southern Caving Clubs. No, I really cannot say that it was a bastard at birth, but it wasn't exactly a 'wanted' child. And if it doesn't do what it's thirty or so parent clubs want it to, any one of them might throw it out into the cold one night.

If it's birth pangs were great, they will be thought nothing compared with the trouble there is going to be when the infant grows up and has to decide what it is going to do for it's living. For half its parents want it as the means to forming a National Caving Organisation, and the other half want it to do exactly the opposite - to fight anyone trying to form such a body.

Indeed, its very terms of reference will make sure that

the child never grows big enough teeth to bite back at its parents - any of them! What the M.C.G.'s six reps. at the meeting did learn were the facts of life about the formation of Big Brother (The Council of Northern Gaving Clubs)

The C.N.C.G. Secretary told us that a wicked uncle called the Central Council for Physical Recreation wanted some national body to whom they could direct prospective members and who could organise the Clubs. The C.N.C.G. also want the might and majesty of the whole country behind them in fighting legal battles with recalcitrant landowners.

Well, births are always rather messy, and the Newsletter is no place to go into all the sordid details. If you want to know all about the C.S.C.C. ask Pedro or one of the Committee members who were at the meeting.

Members will recall that the M.C.G.'s A.G.M. in 1964 decided that we should support a regional organisation while opposing any national "control".

Financial News.

Our funds stand at present at approx. £23 in the Cottage Purchase Fund and £18 in the General Fund. Liabilities stand at £16.10.0 Please remember this when Ian passes the box round on Thursdays. Please note, farthings are no longer legal tender, although we are accepting nickel-silver coins and even promissory notes signed by J.C. Hallam, on behalf of the Govr. and Compa.

MENDIPETYMOLOGY

Nordrach - Noro, Old Eng., north; drag, Old Norse, a hill.

Charterhouse - Chartreuse (France) from whence a monastic cell was founded here.

Blackmoor - blaec, Old Eng., bleak; moor, Eng.

Velvet Bottom - Fjellet, Old Eng., disafforested; bothm, OE, valley.

Resignation.

Ted Gabb has decided that he can no longer remain a member in view of his present place of residence (Stockport, Ches.)

Our Secretary has written to him expressing our regret at this decision, pointing out that we shall all be glad to see him and Beth whenever they can manage to get down to Mendip.

CLUB MEETS.

Our Meet Secretary, Tony Knibbs, has brought out a list of Meets for 1965 that should please all tastes. This is what a lot of people have been waiting for. It makes it a lot easier to plan trips to Mendip when you are informed what is going on.

Now it is up to us to give him our fullest support in attending these meets and in leading those trips which you may feel qualified by experience (or ability, or both) to lead.

Don't wait to be asked; volunteer!

DIARY FOR TWO MONTHS

- Jan. 16. G. E. Gavern. Both caves are suitable for novices.
- Jan. 17. Lamb Lair. Permits needed for G. B. Act Now. See Geoy.
- Feb. 6. Goatchurch and Rod's Pot. Suitable for novices.
- Feb. 7. Pinetree Pot. Ditto.
- Feb. 20. CLUB JUMBLE SALE. Faling Town Hall. Help from M. e. s.
- Feb. 27. Swildon's Hole. Upper Series and below if crowds allow.
- Feb. 28. Balch Cave. NOTE-Entrance may not be reopened at time.