

MENDIP CAVEING GROUPNEWSLETTER NO. 61.FEBRUARY 1968.IS THIS YOUR LAST?

Is this the last newsletter you will receive?
 It will be if you have not paid your subscriptions for 1968.
 30/- for full and probationary members, over 18, 15/- for
 associates, members wives and those under 18.

The committee has powers under the Constitution and Rules
 to terminate the membership of people whose subs are not
 paid by January 31st.

Don't Forget March 9th. Annual General Meeting, in the
 cottage, 4 p.m. Annual Dinner, The Cliff, 7.30 for 8 p.m.
 (tickets on sale untill February 29th)

Men Keep Out! Only women are allowed in the small Dormitory at
 the cottage.

G.B. Cave. Access to G.B. is now through the new entrance
 (a few hundred yards up the road towards Tynings Farm by
 the road.)

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! GET YOUR SURVEYS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS
 FROM JOAN ROBINSON. ALL MAJOR MENDIP CAVES IN SURVEY FORM.

Longwood August. Please do not park or change into caveing
 gear at Lower Farm. Parking is only allowed on the non
 farmyard side of the stone bridge.

MARY(in the garden)BROWN was unanimously elected a
 probationary member of the Group at the last Committee
 meeting. SHEILA KILLINGBACK(who has no title(yet)) was also
 accepted as a probationary member. Welcome both.

5th Provetina Expedition. £45 is all it will cost you to go
 and break your neck in a cave called Provetina in Northern
 Greece.

Amongst the joys of this trip are a 2,400 mile Landrover
 journey across Europe, and a 1,000 foot straight in entrance
 shaft.

The trip is from the 28th of June to the 27th of July 68:
 anyone interested should write to; K.D.F.Kelly 278, Buxton
 Road, New Mills, Derbyshire.

Teak Log! Following the Hydrology lecture at Leicester, run
 by the CRG, a dozen or so cavers were observed in the lower
 stream section of Longwood August. These enterprising
 gentlemen were carrying a large, teak log.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

"All That Remains" (Plymouth CG) A survey of the mines in the Kithill and Callington areas a century after the heyday of the mining industry of Devon and Cornwall.

A few years ago some members of PCG, being faced with a long drive to the nearest caveing, turned their attention to the exploration of the local mines. They found everything they were looking for (and more!) sumps, pitches and highly coloured formations. This superb publication is the result - 90pp of interesting reading plus surveys, maps and photographs.

A Guide to the Mines of West Cornwall by D.B. Barton, kindly donated by MDB.

Axbridge CG N/L. John Tucker has started a series of articles (plus surveys) on 'The Smaller Caves of Mendip'. These will appear in the Axbridge N/L but will be bound separately. This month the subject is Foxes Hole, Burrington.

Speleomundus Vol.1 No.1 (Free Tropical Assn.) 28pp review of speleo. literature. This publication attempts to fill a very large gap and only really covers material from Spain and Latin-America. It is hoped that future issues will be more extensive in coverage. Nevertheless, the book is quite usefull and provides interesting reading with an account of Tony Oldham's trip to Rumania.

London Univ. CG Journal 5. Some observations on Helictites (8pp). Three basic forms are differentiated and explanations advanced for the formation of two of them. The role of capillary flow is demonstrated. O.F.D.2 98pp and survey) For those who still do not believe it can be done, two dry ways to ladder the 'Wet Pitch' in Lost John's are described.

C.R.G. Translations Vol.10 No.1 (44pp). 'Features of Cavern Development in Central Mendip' by Derek Ford. The young cave is typified by a system of 'phreatic loops consisting of dip tubes and joint chimneys. Multiphase conditions lead to complications in the system which further modified by primary, secondary or tertiary vadose development. The author contrasts hypothetical models with well known Mendip caves.

'Pleistocene Bone Caves with Special Reference to Mendip' by E.K. Tratman.

'Caves in the Djurdjura Mountains' (Algeria) by A. Milner.

'Cavern Formation in Gypsum in the South-West Harz' by Eric Hensler.

Studies in Speleology(Pengelly) Vol.1 No.5 (62 pp).

'Dear William Buckland' by Patric Boylan.

'A Survey of British Caveing Periodicals' by Ray Mansfield.
There are also articles on blind cave fishes, studies in Nordland and the Batu Caves.

Bradford PC show just what foot and mouth has done:- four pages of quotes from G and S and a four page article all about carbide.

BEC show the effects of foot and mouth in a different way - they have brought out a new Belfry Bulletin - a fine quarto affair, now under the editorship of Dave Irwin.

Peter Mathews Hon. Recorder.

RIDDLE.

Q. Since when has Peter Mathews signature been followed by Kiss,Kiss,Kiss' (XXX)

Ans. Why! when he's signing Mary Brown's application form.

SQUIDS ARE JUST LIKE WOMEN

Old fashioned squids (and by that we mean really old-fashioned ones, 310m years or so) just got their hooks into their prey, Modern ones have suckers.

A recent fossil find at Mazon Creek, Illinois, reveals that squids have been around for longer than we previously thought. The one just found was 310m years old, the oldest one previously known was only 150m years.

The newly found fossil reveals that squids started out with hooks and they have evolved into suckers over the years. More in 'Science' February 2, 1968.

Ogofwr Ddu,
our palaeontological correspondent.

Review of the Reviews..., no reading of 'History of Mendip Caveing' would be complete without a glance at the dozen or so pages condemning the book. The best of these are the 3 pages by J.Hanwell (CRG N/L 107) 4 pages by C.H.Kenny (wessex Jnl. 114) and a 3 page letter by H. Ashworth

Ogofwr Wen.

HEARD RECENTLY WHILST UNDERGROUND "It's (pant puff) good (puff) to (gasp) go (phee) caveing (puff pant) again." (retires to a corner; dies quietly.)

Not over my dead national body.

THE ORPHEUS SONG BOOK

A copy of this erudite work of art is/was/will be/might be circulating round the club - a fitting companion to the book mentioned in the January newsletter.

This book is available FREE OF CHARGE. If you would like a copy then please let me know as soon as possible as stocks are limited.

Peter Mathews.

(Let me warn you Peter is also collecting for the Orpheus Cottage fund - this of course is pure coincidence).

LIEGE BELGIUM, 1967.

I spent most of the past summer exploring and surveying a new cave in Liege, Belgium. Although the cave is only 190ft deep, it is in a large limestone plateau with a complex drainage system several miles long. After doing coloration tests on the sinks in the area, we decided to try a few digs. Out of four digs we entered three new caves (two were only a few feet long). The third was over 190ft deep and it showed possibilities of reaching the suspected main system. There are two streams: one comes in near the entrance, and the second was found in the last chamber. The cave ends in a narrow crevice, but there was a chimney, recently found, that may give access to an upper system.

On the plateau there is a series of dry valleys running generally with the bedding plane of the rock; these were once tributaries to the River Ourthe, but now the water is quickly taken by numerous swallets. The amount of water taken by the swallets is enormous, and most of it has been traced to the Ourthe Valley over two miles away, so a major system is suspected. For lack of good surveys on the area, we were forced to make our own over a period of six months. Despite the promising appearance of this area, it has seen very few cavers.

During the Christmas holidays I returned to Belgium and spent a week camping on the plateau with a Belgian group "Les Calcaires". At the time we were working on a sink in one of the dry valleys, still trying for the main system below.

There was nearly eight inches of snow and temperatures to match, so working wasn't very easy. We had found pieces of stalagmite floor six inches thick in the dig, and a draught was rising from a jumble of boulders below. One morning while I was waiting for the others to arrive, I decided to look at

some of the other sinks in the area, though due to the thawing snow, water was flooding most of them. One, however, was taking the water very quickly. There was no depression, only a pile of branches that a farmer had put there, and a few limestone boulders scattered around. Ten or fifteen feet from where the stream sank there was a space between two blocks of limestone. I bent down to take a closer look and was greeted by the far-off moaning of an underground cascade. I hurried back to where the water sank and removed some of the branches; I found a good spot and started to dig. Three hours later, the hole was six feet deep. I was getting tired, and was almost ready to quit. I picked up the crowbar to move a large rock at the bottom of the dig. To my surprise, instead of moving upwards, it disappeared leaving a black hole. The sound of falling water was directly below. I ran for my light and found that the hole was in the roof of a small chamber, with a stream at the bottom. I enlarged the entrance enough to pass, and waited for my friends. They were very excited when they saw the hole, but after trying to pass, we were disappointed to find that the water was falling too hard and blocking the way. They said they could see another hole further on.

The cave is still waiting, and much work remains to be done in this area. We may reach the system below; only time will tell.

Victor Ingram

SATTIRE ?

I Suddenly there was a-----great explosion U
.....and the Belfrey was three inches nearer the road.
(U followed by a-----great commotion.....)

And now Ken Newcomb will give his account of the CRG Hydrology lecture at leicester.....

Thankyou ken, very concise.

I am still waiting for two other gems of prose from Brian(scandalmonger)Mee and Mike Nightingale.

MEET PROGRAMME

The meet programme will be issued with the March issue of the N/L.

