

Secretaries' Report, 1967-1968

Meetings

Five sessional meetings were again held this year and attendance at these was exceptionally good. This was due to the choice of lectures of wide interest and some hard work by the P.R.O.

Caving

The annual expedition to Ireland, (Clare), although one of the smallest ever, found an estimated 300 m. in E2 in Poulmagollum and surveyed part of it. Further progress was made from the swallet itself. In the Doolin Cave System some 300 m. of the new passages discovered in 1966 were surveyed.

Another expedition, numbering 11, visited Czechoslovakia in August with the object of investigating sumps in the Slovakian karst. Although many sumps were dived all results were negative.

The exploration of The Little Neath River Cave has been continued and many extensions found, most of them between sumps 2 and 6. Attempts to find a high level route to bypass the sumps have so far proved fruitless.

At Manor Farm the new shaft was blasted to a depth of 18 m. without entering the cave. A small cross rift found at this depth was followed for 6 m. before being abandoned. A passage is now being driven back towards the old shaft.

Divers at Wookey Hole have succeeded in clearing the 500ft. of loose line and a certain amount of progress has since been made.

From October to January general caving and archæology were severely restricted because of the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic.

Archæology

A fortnight's excavation at Stokeleigh Camp in June yielded a lot of information. The work did not make as much progress as had been hoped because of the very bad weather. A miniature iron currency bar was

amongst the finds. Perhaps it was a votive offering. Excavation will be continued there and has been started at the Hyena Den, Wookey Hole where Pleistocene remains have been found in undisturbed deposits.

The Museum

A gift of a replica of the Tom Tivey's Hole Neolithic bowl has been made by the excavator, Mr. Barrett. Mr. M. G. Messer has presented a notched bone pin which he found at Little Solsbury Hill Camp.

Field Headquarters

The wind driven generator has given prolonged trouble. It was decided to buy a petrol driven generator to charge the battery system. The generator is being installed and the hut rewired.

Proceedings

The last issue, (Vol. 11, No. 2), was the largest yet produced and the most expensive. Sales have reached a record figure of £276. Much credit for this must go to the librarian's sales drive and to the quality of the articles published. Publication was still only possible because of donations from various anonymous sources. It was not necessary to draw upon the capital of the Printed Publications Fund.

Caves of North-West Clare

A publisher for this book has been found and it should be available in January 1969.

Acknowledgements

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M. G. NORTON,
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Joint Hon. Secretaries