

## Secretaries' Report, 1970

### Sessional Meetings

Four meetings and an A.G.M. were held this year. The size of the audiences varied although the lectures were of a consistently high standard.

### Caving

*South Wales.* Most of the Society's caving activities have been directed towards the Little Neath River Cave. The surveying work beyond the sumps has been completed and many non-divers have helped to resurvey the rest of the system. Enthusiasm has been rewarded by the discovery of two small extensions upstream of Sump 2. The first was 1,000 feet of fossil stream passage leading from the 3-D Maze near Genesis Gallery. The second was 500 feet of active inlet passage of great variety which was found by maypoling the wet aven at the head of Genesis Gallery. Unfortunately the U.B.S.S. party involved in the first of these discoveries was trapped in the cave for 18 hours by flood water. The party was well equipped for the emergency and sat out the flood in reasonable comfort. A full report of the system appears in this issue of *Proceedings*.

During the summer some diving and surveying was done in the Hepste river caves. Some accounts of this work appear in the newsletters of the Cave Diving Group.

*Ireland.* A party of four spent several days at Easter engaged mainly in water-tracing activities.

In July the major expedition to Ireland enjoyed a superb holiday and completed a large amount of work. The difficult surveying of Upper E.2. was completed and another party surveyed the high-level passages of the Echo Pot series in Doolin Cave. Two days' digging in the B.11. swallet led to the deepest pothole in County Clare. The resurgence of the Coolah River was finally located on the coast south of Pollsallagh.

A small party went out in August to take readings at the micro-erosion stations set up a few years ago. They also traced the water from Cullaun 5 to the Fergus River.

*Mendip.* Spasmodic but determined efforts to link the drilled shaft at Manor Farm with the working face have not yet succeeded due to some very hard rock.

In G.B. Cave the pool at the end of Bat Passage has dried up, and two members have been digging there regularly with much hope of success.

*Yorkshire.* There is some evidence that the Society is once again beginning to take pleasure in the delights of this unique region.

### **Archaeology**

The Society's excavation at Hæyna Den has been finished, and work at Stokeleigh has temporarily stopped until a subsidiary excavation is begun. During the year members have assisted in emergency excavations at Westbury-sub-Mendip Quarry and on sites along the route of the new M.5 Motorway. Digging has started on the Pleistocene site of Rhinoceros Hole near Wookey Hole. Members also hope to conduct a resistivity survey of the Mediæval kilns at Ham Green, though the site is currently under cultivation.

### **Computing**

Two members have perfected a computer programme for handling cave survey data which gives a wide range of output including line-survey cave plans and elevations along any bearing.

### **The Society's Rooms**

The Society has moved its library into one of the two adjoining rooms recently provided by the University. Many thanks must go to our President for the time he has spent in the negotiation, planning, and organisation of the new rooms.

### **Proceedings**

Sales of *Proceedings* and Offprints are running at a record level and income from these sources exceeded £400 by the end of 1970. Unfortunately this increase in income has only just compensated for the great increase in printing costs, despite a reduction in the number of pages in the *Proceedings*.

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*Joint Hon. Secretaries.*