

SECRETARIES' REPORT, 1971

3

SESSIONAL MEETING

Mr. P. M. O'Reilly gave a very interesting talk on Ogof Ffynnon Ddu to a large audience during the summer term.

CAVING

Ireland

At Easter 1971 a small party spent ten days in County Clare, the main achievements being the exploration of the Fergus River Cave extensions.

In July the annual expedition took place, attended by fourteen members. The Fergus River Cave was pushed further and surveyed. A new connection between the Upper Series and the main cave was made in the Doolin System. This provides another closed loop for the survey. Diving in B11 failed to reveal a way on.

Both at Easter and July water tracing was done. Provisionally swallets north of Poulmagree North, Cregg Lodge swallet and Poll-an-Ionian all drain to S3, the Coolagh River resurgence.

Mendip

The long-awaited connection between the shaft and the dig at Manor Farm has been made, but the dig has become unstable and further work awaits shoring. The collapsed shaft has now been filled in.

Sporadic digging continues in Bat Passage in G.B. Cave, despite intermittent sumping of the dig.

A large number of other trips have been done, including Swildon's Figure Eight and Primrose Pot. The diving members of the society have been active in Swildon's and Wookey.

South Wales

The majority of the society's working trips have taken place here. Much work has been done in the Little Neath River Cave, and three members were lucky enough to be on the first Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I-II through trip via the connection dug out by the South Wales Caving Club.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The small subsidiary excavation in Stokeleigh Camp was completed. An interesting pottery sequence and a La Tène I brooch were found. Searches over the Ham Green pottery kiln fields provided a mass of potsherds covering several hundred years, it seems, of the use of the kilns. Also picked up here were Acheulean implements on the 50-ft terrace of the Avon.

Steady progress has been made at Rhinoceros Hole. The site presents a number of unsolved problems of Pleistocene stratigraphy.

A Pleistocene bone-fissure in the Limekiln Hill Quarry at Mells

was investigated. Animal bones, teeth and charcoal have been recovered. Our thanks are due to the owners for their co-operation and Dr. W. I. Stanton for giving information of its existence.

In Co. Clare field work, in conjunction with Dr. Paul Williams, on coastal erosion and percolation of water flow in limestone yielded unexpected archaeological bonuses. A series of vast coastal kitchen middens were found north of Ballyvaughan. On Ailwee Mountain two extensive ancient field systems were found and possibly unrecorded prehistoric tombs.

SOCIETY'S ROOMS

The University has made a fire escape route through the toilet and corner of the workroom. Access to our rooms is now through the main entrance to the Geography Department.

FIELD HEADQUARTERS

The lock on the hut has been changed. Preparations are in hand for repairing the roof.

PROCEEDINGS

The printers have been changed in an effort to cut costs. Other ways of reducing costs have been looked at and will be implemented. Printing costs have doubled in under four years. Another increase is scheduled for early 1972 of about 20 per cent. Income from sales has shown a buoyancy of note. The total from sales is over £450. This includes offprints.

CIRCULAR

The format of the circular has been changed, and its circulation extended to keep more people up to date with the Society's activities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude grants from the Colston Research Society and the University towards the cost of publishing Proceedings. Both grants have been increased by a substantial amount. This will ease the financial position. The University of Bristol Union has again made grants towards the general running expenses of the society, including a contribution to travelling expenses. For these grants we are very grateful.

The first refund of income tax under covenanted subscriptions has been made. A welcome addition to our funds.

HONORARY MEMBERS

It is with deep regret that we record during 1971 the deaths of two of our Honorary Members, Mr. Jack C. Coleman and Mr. Miles C. Burkitt.

R. A. CHURCHER

A. BOYCOTT

Joint Hon. Secretaries