

SECRETARIES' REPORT, 1975

Sessional Meetings

Three meetings have been held during the year on a variety of subjects. Attendance was reasonable.

Caving

Ireland. The usual expeditions were organised at Easter and during the summer. Due to considerably lower water conditions than usual during the summer Pollnagree was extended a few metres. Polldonough north was surveyed from the entrance down to the "Chert Topped Waterfall" of the original survey of the cave. Two sumps have been passed at the upstream end of the Fergus River Cave. The first was found to be free-diveable and the second 30m long. The route beyond this was a low but wide bedding plane, too low to penetrate.

Mendip. Digging has continued intermittently at the end of Bat Passage in G.B. Cave. Little progress has been made. The boulders are unstable.

Yorkshire. There have been several trips to Yorkshire this year. Our thanks are due to the Cave Rescue Organisation for the rescue of one of our members injured in Ireby Fell Cavern.

South Wales. Further progress has been made in the Little Neath River Cave: sump 9 has been dived for 150m. It terminates in a boulder choke at a depth of 25m.

Turkey. A small expedition went there during the summer. A report is in this issue of Proceedings.

Library

New shelving has been erected in the library in preparation for re-organisation and cataloguing. The shelf space has been almost doubled. The cost has been met by donations.

Archaeology

1975 saw the completion of the excavations at Rhinoceros Hole, Wookey Hole. Middle Palaeolithic, (Mousterian), implements were found almost on rock floor. A further session in Wookey Hole 4 allowed the excavation of the upstream part of the inhumation cemetery to be completed. Our thanks are due to the Management of Wookey Holes Caves Ltd. for permission to work at both sites.

Museum

The curator, J. R. Russell, has made big improvements in the displays. The cost involved has been minimal. Further progress has been made with the cataloguing.

Photography

Once again there is nothing to report.

Proceedings

The issue of volume 14(1) was delivered late. This was largely due to the late delivery of scripts to the Editor. Income from sales of all publications was substantially down from 1974. This was due to there being only 10 months in the financial year because of the adjustment of the date of the Annual General Meeting. The cost worked out at about £8.-00 per page as against about £6-20 in 1974.

Acting Secretary

Mr. R. J. Barker resigned during the year on leaving the University. Miss C. A. Greenall was appointed in his place.

Acknowledgments

Our thanks are due to the University of Bristol for grants towards the costs of publishing Proceedings and to the University of Bristol Students' Union for grants towards equipment and travelling expenses.

The Caves of North West Clare, Ireland

In 1975 the publishers issued the first cheap edition of this book. The only difference between this edition and the ordinary edition is the price. The society has bought in a number of copies and can supply them to members and the public at £3-00 (p & p 60p). Orders should be addressed to the Librarian. Over 900 copies have been sold all told. Foreign sales seem to be increasing. The society is now receiving royalty payments and the original subvention towards the costs of publication has been refunded.

C. P. SULLIVAN

Hon. Secretary