

SECRETARIES' REPORT MARCH 1992-1993

Research

Dr. Peter Smart is continuing his research into past sea level fluctuations, including work on the geomorphology of a mixing zone cave in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This work included the surveying of over three kilometres of new passage in the single largest cave in the Bahamian Archipelago. This was formed at a higher sea level. Work is also being carried out on a platform scale computer simulation model of saline ground water flow in the Bahamas.

Andy Farrant is continuing his research into long term rates of landform development, both in Sarawak and in the Bristol region. Andy Baker is in the process of writing his Ph.D thesis on Quaternary palaeoclimate research using data from speleothems.

Other members of the karst research group are also continuing their research into Quaternary palaeoclimate, partly in collaboration with a Turkish student working on vein calcite from the Pamukkule springs in Turkey; and on waste disposal on Carboniferous Limestone aquifers.

Caving

The Society has been very active in the past year, with many trips both in this country and abroad. Dick Willis returned once again to China and Tibet, and other members visited Ireland and the Pierre St. Martin system in France.

In August, a group returned to the Totes Gebirge area in Austria, to continue work in BS17, The Organhöhle. Although no further vertical extensions were made, a considerable amount of horizontal passage was discovered. There was a certain amount of dispute regarding the potential of various other finds!

Unfortunately there has been little progress in the GB dig as it has been flooded for the best part of the year. However, the big news locally is the reopening by members of the Society of Pen Park Hole in Southmead which had previously been shut since 1963.

Meetings

Attendance at Sessional Meetings has not been as good as in past years, despite some good presentations. In October, Andy Farrant talked about the research conducted during the Mulu Caves '91 expedition. This was followed in December by Tophier Martin giving a report on the progress of the three Austria Expeditions. Bob Cork and Tony Jarratt finished the Sessional Meetings with a fantastic slide show of Vietnam.

In addition, several members attended the 1st European Conference of Speleology in Belgium.

The Stables

A great deal of work has gone into the reorganisation of the museum and library over the past few months. The displays are now completed and the rooms were officially opened by Sir John Wills on Friday 5th March 1993. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, but most especially, Chris Hawkes and Lesley-Anne Kerr, Linda Wilson, Graham Mullan, Tony Boycott; Charlie Self and Andy Farrant for the geological displays, Mike White for the photographic work, and finally Steve Cottle for making the glass display boxes and all his "running around."

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