

SECRETARIES' REPORT

MARCH 1999 - MARCH 2000

Archaeology

The curator of the museum has had inquiries from various specialists to come and examine parts of the collections. However, most of these have not taken place.

Jodie Lewis (Department of Archaeology) has expressed an interest in helping to publish the T5 Barrow report. Linda Wilson and Lesley-Anne Kerr have both promised to try and translate Porthos Taylor's field logs on the T5 site. This is a major task as the T5 Barrow is the main historic UBSS excavation that remains to be published.

No further work has taken place at the Hyaena Den site during the year, but more is planned for the coming year.

The residue of Bob Savage's geological and osteological collections, the latter including much material from M.A.C. Hinton's estate, has been taken into the care of the Palaeontological Department of the Natural History Museum, London.

Research

The newly renamed "Carbonate Process and Palaeoenvironments" group has had a productive year and gained three new PhD students, Pat Beddoes, Lou Maurice and Sam Smith. Lou's study aims to improve understanding of potential effects of quarrying on the groundwater hydrology of limestone, and develop techniques to monitor and mitigate these impacts. The others are working on a large new project investigating hydrology, microbiology and geochemistry of a density stratified conduit flow carbonate aquifer in the Caribbean Coast, Yucatan Peninsula. They are currently out in Mexico with Pete Smart looking at cave hydrology and geochemical and microbiological processes.

Alice Jones's work into influence of land use on water quality in the Mendips is progressing well. Pete Smart is continuing work with Mark Roberts into reconstructing the climate record from speleothems. Meanwhile, Andy Farrant is continuing his geomorphological survey of Ogof Draenen with Mike Simms.

Caving

This last year has been an active and productive one for the Society. There was a large student intake at Fresher's Fair, a substantial number of whom remain keen. Enthusiasm among the caving members runs high and the regular trips to Wales, the Mendips and Yorkshire are very popular. Fairy Cave Quarry reopened last year and many members have enjoyed visits to Shatter Cave. The year 2000 was welcomed in by an impressive display of fireworks at the Burrington Hut and by several members on a caving holiday in Majorca.

During the Summer several members joined the Cambridge University Caving Club expedition to Kaninkenhohle in Austria. There are plans to return this summer.

In Ireland, Poulmagree Sump 2 was successfully dived and passed, leading to between 1.5 and 2 km of well decorated streamway, which has been named Priory Streamway. An expedition is planned for this year to return, complete the exploration and carry out a high grade survey.

UBSS continues to play an active role in caving administration at both national and local level. Clive Owen has been elected Treasurer of the Cambrian Caving Council. Graham Mullan continues to represent the Council of Southern Caving Clubs and Linda Wilson represents UBSS on the National Caving Association.

Acknowledgments

The Society would like to thank all those who support its activities with grant aid. These include the Oliver Lloyd Memorial Fund who have provided a slide scanner for the benefit of the Society, the Tratman Fund of the University of Bristol for assistance with foreign travel and publishing *Proceedings*, and the University of Bristol Union for assistance in the day to day running of the Society.

Morven Beranek - Stanley and Simon Flower

LIBRARY REPORT 2000 – 2001

The Library has continued to grow through exchanges with *Proceedings* and from donations. Thanks are due to Richard Broomhead for photo scanning and Pat Cronin for donations of journals, manuscripts and books.

New additions

Westbury Cave, The Natural History Museum Excavations 1976-1984. P Andrews, J Cook, A Currant and C Stringer. Western Academic & Specialist Press Ltd. Bristol. 2000.

Speleogenesis: Evolution of Karst Aquifers. A. B. Klimchouk, D. C. Ford, A. N. Palmer, and W. Dreybrodt. National Speleological Society. 2000.

Environmental Archaeology; principles and practice. Dena F. Dincauze. Cambridge University Press. 2000.

Ecosystems of the world No 30 Subterranean Ecosystems. H. Wilkens, D. C. Culver and W. F. Humphreys. Elsevier Science. 2000.

New exchanges

SALAMANCA Grupo Espeleológico Argentino.

SPELAION Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones Espeleológicas.

Tony Boycott
Librarian