

## SECRETARIES' REPORT

MARCH 2000 - MARCH 2001

### Archaeology

The work towards the publication of the T5 report has been slow due to the difficulty of translating Porthos Taylor's logs but the promise is still there.

The management of Wookey Hole Caves have re-landscaped the valley and earth has been brought in from outside. Future excavators should beware of contamination to a depth of 600mm. The planned work in the Hyæna Den has not yet taken place but the work on checking the flint from Gorsey Bigbury continues.

Andy Currant has taken some more of the material collected by the UBSS between 1969 and 1974 to the Natural History Museum and there is more still to go.

### Research

The "Carbonate Process and Palaeoenvironments" group has had a productive year and Pete Smart, the head of the group, has been given a personal chair in the Department of Geography.

Lou Maurice has carried out some dye tracing to establish where the water from quarry lakes goes and to determine the lag time between sinking and resurging. Sam Smith and Patricia Beddoe's work on the submerged caves of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico continues. Sam is analysing samples obtained during cave diving in order to determine the distribution of bacteria in the caves and their role in diagenetic processes. Trish has installed four recording current meters in the caves. They will remain there for two years and hopefully provide seasonal and long-term records of discharge velocities.

### Caving

This last year has been very active with much caving taking place both here and abroad. There was a good student intake at Fresher's Fair, and the club has gained several keen, new members. The club trips have been popular, especially the SRT trips to Yorkshire. However, the Foot and Mouth Virus has put a stop to all caving activities for the near future.

During the Summer several members again joined the Cambridge University Caving Club expedition to Kaninkenhohle in Austria. Despite only moderate expansion of the system the trip was a success and many additions were made by the UBSS members present.

In Ireland, a return to Poulmagree resulted in the discovery of 4-500 metres of new passage. However the much hoped for "back door" was not found despite several surface sites being dug. Field work was also undertaken in preparation for a revised edition of the Society's book on the Caves of County Clare. This will hopefully be ready for publication by the end of the year.

Some digging has been carried out in G.B. It has mostly concentrated on Bertie's Pot as the Bat Passage dig has been sumped for the most of the last year. Several metres have been dug but work has been halted during the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

In December several club members organised an expedition to Thailand. Over 2 km of passage were found and surveyed, in more than 20 caves. Over 50 localities were investigated

in total but due to the adverse air conditions in several of the areas explored, many were too dangerous to explore further.

#### Acknowledgments

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