

SECRETARIES' REPORT

MARCH 2005 – MARCH 2006

Research

Vanessa Johnson is currently working with Frank McDermott in Dublin on Chlorine-36 systematics in karst systems and the precise delineation of solar-forced palaeoclimate events in late-Glacial/Holocene mid-latitude speleothems.

Gina Moseley is working on speleothem samples collected by Trish Beddows, from the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico and is trying to establish a sea level record. As speleothems don't grow underwater, dating them can establish when they started and stopped growing and hence when sea levels changed. She is hoping to collect more samples from Bermuda and the Yucatan.

Further work by the Society's prehistoric art team has discovered a series of engravings in Long Hole, Cheddar, which have been provisionally attributed to the Mesolithic, these have been reported upon in the archaeological press. Work continues at sites in Cheddar Gorge and elsewhere. In September, Linda Wilson and Graham Mullan led a small study tour to the decorated caves of the Perigord region of France. Thanks to the generous assistance given by local experts and the staff of the Museum of Prehistory in Les Ezyies, 17 sites were visited in 10 days significantly increasing the experience of the participants.

Caving

As usual, Freshers weekend and Bonfire night, both held at the Hut, were successful events. Bonfire night was again shared with Oxford University's caving club which worked well. Other destinations for caving weekends have included South Wales and Yorkshire. For the second year running, members have attended the Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs seminar in Yorkshire.

Charlie Self and Tony Boycott have finished their fieldwork on the Cotswolds caves and are currently writing up the third and final section: The Northern Cotswolds.

Andrew Atkinson has been on expeditions to both Austria and Mulu. Tony Boycott is currently on expedition in India, this poor excuse for missing the AGM has been used for several years, now.

Library and Museum

The cataloguing of the Library collection continues at a steady pace. Our thanks are due to English heritage for donating back numbers of *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* and to Matthew Parkes for completing our collection of Irish caving publications.

Other

The website has been successfully used as a place to advertise organised trips and this has been kept up to date throughout the year. It has also shown to be a useful interface between

the Society and the wider world, bringing in numerous enquiries and even some publications sales!

Sally White