

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB.

Newsletter No 2. October 1952

To all members.

We welcome the following new members:-

W. E. Clarke 23, Beechwood Road, Uplands, Swansea.
Emlyn and Jean Davies, 4, Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.
Dr. A. Price, 98, Brockly Grove, Crafton Park, London S.E.4.
N.G. Stanley, "Kenton" London Road, **Shrewsbury**.
Professor E.K. Tratman, Penrose Cottage, Barrington, Nr Bristol.
J. Alexander, 99, Rhydypenau Road, Cardiff.

Congratulations

Our best wishes go to Colin Jenkins and Jean Phillips also Colin Hill (Hon Treas.) and Ivy Thomas on their recent marriages.

Reports

The following reports have been received from the

Records Officer:-

Cave Records

A complete copy of the Club's Index of Caves, is now kept at the Headquarters. Members who have any additions or amendments to make should do so on the cards in pencil and inform the Records Officer so that the master copy may be kept up to date.

Record Officer's Report on the recent explorations by the Taylors.

In the February circular mention was made of the exploration of Ogof Bwa Maen carried out by Maurice Taylor and his sisters. The following is a summary of further explorations carried out by them.

Ogof Pwll Trwyth. 22/566156. This cave is situated near the farm called Dyllgoed-uchaf at which permission should be obtained to visit the cave. Pwll Trwyth is an old swallet some 65ft deep and wide. As it is surrounded by bushes and small trees it looks from the distance like a copse. The cave is entered by a muddy crawl which leads to a chamber 30ft x 24ft and 7ft to 18" high. A small passage leads off which requires clearing. The roof and walls are covered with formations "of no particular beauty".

Perhaps the most important work so far carried by the Taylors is in the Crwbin area. During the 1951 Easter meet the S.W.C.C. visited the area under the leadership of A.H. Hill. Exploration was carried out of a cave then known as Crwbin Cave No 1. The existence of Crwbin Cave No 2. was known from an account published in Volume 5 of the "British Caver". Its exact position was not known and effort to find it failed. The Taylors, however, have been successful and the following change in the names of the two caves take place:-

Crwbin Cave No 1. is now known as Ogof Capel Dyddgen. Capel Dyddgen is the ruined chapel on the opposite side of the road.

Crwbin Cave No 2. is now known as Ogof Crwbin. 22/469131. The entrance is on the highest terrace of the quarries and is difficult to find. The cave is 300ft long and descends steeply to a stream passage. Formations in the cave are small but "of a lovely translucent colour".

Ogof-y-Cae. Crwbin.22/475133. The situation of this cave discovered by the Taylors is in a field on the right of the road leading to the quarries from the "Three Compasses" Inn. The field is about 40 yards up the road and the entrance is a few yards from a limestone outcrop facing the road. The cave is entered more or less in the middle. The South Passage is 6ft high and 12 - 15ft wide. The North Passage is of the same width and up to 15ft high. At the time of writing the length of the cave is about 270ft and the Taylors report that they have not yet finished exploration.

I would like to thank the Taylors for the excellent work that they have done and for the manner in which they send in their reports and plans and I am sure that we shall be hearing more of their efforts.

The Hospital Cave.

During the Easter 1952 meet of the S.W.C.C. permission was obtained to visit the cave from which the Adelina Patti Hospital gets its water. The trip was made by P.I.W. Harvey, C. Freeman and D.W. Jenkins after promises had been made to use every care inside the cave so as not to contaminate the water.

The cave which is situated behind Craig-y-Nos Castle has, in front of the entrance, two small resevoirs. The first is open but the second is covered with a roof of corrugated sheeting. Under this roof the way leads to a stone wall. This marks the actual entrance of the cave and once over the wall it is worth while to pause and look back out of the cave. The roof slopes close to the edge of the second resevoir leaving a long narrow space through which can be seen the castle. In the half light the water of the second resevoir assumes a lovely green colour and the whole effect of this unusual entrance is rather beautiful in spite of the corrugated roof.

Immediately beyond the wall the stream is seen flowing out under a low arch. Before this a passage leads off to the right which can be followed for some distance to a window overlooking stream passage. Returning to the stream again and passing under the arch access is gained to a large chamber full of fallen boulders. The stream passage itself bears right but soon becomes too low for further progress. Climbing up the boulders in the main chamber the stream is again encountered but only for a short distance. The route continues up through the boulders to a small chamber. From here the way is to climb over a pile of boulders which were judged to be in such a dangerous condition that it was not attempted. Altogether the total length of the passages must have been about 300ft.

Our thanks are due to the hospital authorities for giving us permission to visit the cave.

D.W. Jenkins.
Records Officer,
Dinmore,
Dyffryn Road,
Llandrindod Wells.
Rads.

Water Pollution

Members are reminded that the people living near Ogof Ffynnon Odu, use the resurgence for their drinking water supply.

As the main stream is fed by water from practically all parts of the cave **great care must be taken to keep it clean.**

Do not throw waste material from digs etc, where it can be carried back to the stream passage. Remember that the **water** was fouled by peat and sand for approximately six weeks, when the dam at Pwll Byfre was broken.

Knots

There are a few knots that all cavers should know how to tie. With this newsletter we include, as a supplement, a review by Charles Freeman of the essential knots. It is hoped that those who are unable to tie their own bowline will read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.

Vandalism

In view of the serious increase in damage done to cave formations, the Committee appeals strongly to ALL members to spare no effort in putting a stop to this vandalism.

Members are reminded that Rule 19 in the Club Rules states:-

"There shall be no wilful breaking or damaging of stalactites or stalagmites, nor the writing of inscription or any defacement likely to destroy the natural beauty of any cave, nor wilful damage or breakage of property of this or any other Club or Association!"

Members contravening this rule are liable to suspension by the Committee and this may lead to expulsion at an A.G.M. The committee will not hesitate to enforce this Rule as the status of the club and the right to enter certain caves is **jeopardised** by this continuous malicious damage and defacement.

Subscriptions

Will members who have not yet paid their subscriptions note that they are now **overdue**. Please forward ten shillings to the Hon. Treasurer:-

C.E. Hill Esq.,
Penlee,
Heol-Caer-Rhys,
Rhiwbina,
CARDIFF.

C.R.G. Transactions

Number 1 of the second volume of the Cave Research Group Transactions has recently been published. It contains three papers of interest,

- (1) "A Comparison between the Karst (a limestone area) of the Mediterranean Region and of North Western Europe". by J. Corbel
- (2) "The Technique of Cave Diving". by A. Balcombe.
- (3) "Banding Experiments with Cave Dwelling Bats in Devonshire" by Winifred and John Hooper.

Price of the transactions is 5/- (five shillings) post free, obtainable from P.B. Binns, 34, Alexandra Road, Leamington Spa, Warks.

The club copy can be borrowed from the Records Officer.

Also published recently by the C.R.G. is newsletter No 39 a copy of which is at Club Headquarters.