

CAVE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

To All Members,

The case for Cave Preservation has been made fairly clear in the Publication, Vol. 1., No. 1, of the Cave Preservation Society, entitled "CAVE PRESERVATION", which by now should have had time to circulate pretty widely among members of Clubs in all areas.

The Society has already done good work in that it has brought to the notice of cavers and caving groups the need for the general tidying up of litter in caves and the need for greater care in protecting formations from damage by carelessness. Much litter may be left and much damage caused by non-members of caving clubs, such as tourists, ramblers, cyclists and scouts etc. To meet this problem the Society is now drafting one or two types of notices and circulars; one type for sending to Youth Clubs, Youth Hostels Rambling Associations and Scout Groups etc. for posting on notice boards or including in any bulletin these groups may issue. Also a notice suitable for placing outside certain selected caves. In the latter case, the selection of caves would depend upon the recommendation and wishes of local people and cavers frequenting the area. Naturally, in such cases, the owners permission would be necessart. Each area will have its own particular difficulties and requirements and it is the Society's hope that there will be sufficient people in each caving area to support the commendable objects of the C.P.S. and that these people will consider all the various points of view on the subject and co-operate with all concerned to the best of their ability.

As a member of the Council of the Cave Preservation Society, I have been asked to look into the requirements of the South Wales area. Some of our caves already have some form of restricted entry-either natural or artificial. There are many more, particularly in tourist areas such as Symonds Yat and the Gower, that have already been defaced with initials, litter and such like. There are some that are not worth cleaning up, there must be others which will soon be in a like state unless something is done to try and preserve them in good condition. The first thing to establish is whether there are any caves in our area that contain anything that should be preserved, such as bats, fauna, or calcite, mud, or rock formations. If we have such caves, then surely it is up to us who are keenly interested in caves to do the best we can to ensure that future cavers and other interested people have something of the natural wonders of the underworld preserved for them. First have we such caves? If so I would like their names and location together with what should be preserved and any suggestions as to how it could best be done. Secondly I would like the names and addresses of people who agree, or disagree with the idea of preservation and would be prepared to have a meeting at some convenient centre. With facts and suggestions before it, such a meeting may be able to decide whether there is a need for preservation and agree how this might be fostered. Even if you could not attend a meeting your views would be useful and could be read out at a meeting so insuring that due attention is given to them.

C. Lewis Railton,
12 Chester Road North,
Sutton, Goldfield.

THE BRIDGE CAVE INCIDENT.

On Sunday, August 24th 1952 a party of ten scouts led by David Davies entered the Bridge Cave near Gwm Pwll-y-Rhyd. During the return journey the party was passing over the boulder ruckle when the fall occurred. The last two scouts and the scoutmaster were trapped. The scoutmaster, J. Gase had his leg trapped by the boulders and it was broken. His two companions helped to free him and he was dragged to a ledge over the stream. The scouts who had escaped set out for help while Davies remained at the cave.

The accident took place during the morning and the first rescue parties were the fire brigade from Glyn Neath and the local police. An ambulance was standing by the whole time. A party of cavers led by P.I.W. Harvey were working in the same valley and, on hearing the news from a local farmer rushed to the scene. There was, however, little that the cavers could do except to take in supplies for it was a job for the timbering experts who already had the work well in hand. During the afternoon National Coal Board officials arrived and took charge of the operations. More cavers arrived including Dr. Hudson who took charge of the medical side of the operation.

As the evening came on it was apparent that it was going to be a long job and at one time doubt was expressed as to whether it would be possible to clear a way through the fall. In view of this fact work was started on two other possible entrances but in spite of every effort they had to be abandoned as being too dangerous both to rescuers inside the cave and those outside.

Inside the cave it was possible to pass supplies through to the trapped scouts but it was some eighteen hours after the fall before a space was cleared sufficient for the two uninjured scouts to crawl out. As soon as they were clear Dr. Hudson went in to look after Gase. When the hole was big enough for the stretcher to be passed through Harvey, Goase and Clarke wrapped Gase on to the stretcher and passed him back through the gap. He was then dragged out of the cave by a mixed party of cavers and colliers. Only cavers went beyond the fall.

This short account would not be complete if mention were not made of the wonderful efforts by the lady members and non-members who kept everyone supplied with hot food and drink during the time of rescue.

Finally we would like to make a note of the following points.

1. The use of wireless sets in the cave saved a great deal of time and effort and getting supplies passed in to the cave.
2. The S.W.C.C. rescue stretcher was much better than that of the N.C.B. and not so clumsy.
3. Once again we have had proof of the need of an efficient C.R.O. which still practically non-existent in this club. The medical supplies used by the club were excellent and adequate and thanks must go to Dr. Aslett for this.
4. 4. A controller of operation and a press relations officer are most desirable.

D.W.Jenkins, P.I.W.Harvey.

REPORT I.

Unusual conditions in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

November 22nd. 1952 Wintry conditions having prevailed in the area of the ground around Pwll Byfre was covered with frozen snow, Around Penwyllt, however, the thaw had set in and the snow was rapidly melting.

Inside the cave the stream was comparatively low but all the minor tributaries were in full flood. There were heavy shower baths while going up Stream Passage and the waterfall leading to the Waterfall Series did not present an attractive climb even in oilskins. From Boulder Chamber Dr. J. Aspen, G.L. Railton and Bill Little traversed along the ascending ledge and over the bridge to the top of the waterfall. Where the broad ledge peters out except for small footholds a jammed handhold and a small knob provide handholds at a vital moment over the waterfall gully.

Belays. 10ft before the waterfall there is a deep thread belay in the wall at ledge level; beyond the waterfall a stalagmite in the right hand wall suffices.

Standard. About Very Difficult, but dry. A fixed rope would be a great time saver and a danger reducer.

Bill Little.

As reported in a previous S.W.O.C. circular Bill Little and Peter Densham traversed from the ledge opposite to Low's Passage to the Railton-Wild Series. Bill Little writes, "Whilst contemplating fixing a steel cable there for rescue purposes we came to the conclusion that the fine collection of helictites were in greater need of preservation".

Anyone attempting this traverse should take great care of these formations. The traverse is moderately difficult and a 50 ft rope is required.

REPORT II

On the level ground on the top of Craig-y-Dinas entry is being attempted down an almost vertical fissure of apparently considerable depth - judging from the sound of falling stones.

The entrance is some 5 ft deep and is protected by a corrugated sheet, stones and timber.

Take the track up the left-hand side of old quarry at the entrance to the Sychryd Gorge to level^{top} and bear right to the edge of the gorge. Continue along until approximately opposite and looking down on Bwa Maen. From this point the site is some 10 yds in from the edge and 50 yds farther on.

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An attempt is being made to penetrate Ilston Cwm Cave (Gower) Masses of farmyard earth have been dug and results show that, although extremely low, the cave inside is much more extensive than one would first imagine.

There are numbers of dry stalactites and several pillars. However, as the place appears to be some 2-3ft deep in earth leaving very little room to manoeuvre progress is slow. The only consolation is that so far no end to the cave can be seen.

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Ogof Goeden Prop. 5-1-53

The tree at the entrance to which the cave owes its name has vanished.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The A.G.M. of the club will be held at 7 p.m. at the Gwyn Arms on Easter Sunday, April 5th 1953. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

EASTER TRIP.

A trip to Pwll Swnd has been arranged for Saturday April 4th. Party leaving the Cottage at 10a.m.

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