

Extraordinary General Meeting.

This was held at the Club H.Q. on Saturday, September 25th to consider two proposals. About 20 members were present. The chair was taken by Dr. E. Aslett.

1. The proposal that the following words shall be deleted from Rule 1, "and shall be a member of the Cave Association of Wales" was discussed. It was stated at the meeting that the Cave Association had at one time existed although the Hon. Secretary had no knowledge of this. It was proposed by P. I. W. Harvey and seconded by Mrs M. E. Railton that the motion shall be held over until the next A.G.M. and that in the meantime the committee shall investigate the existence of the association and make a report on their findings.

2. The proposal of an honorary member was then discussed in the unavoidable absence of the proposer and seconder. The proposal was put to the vote but it was rejected by a majority.

The meeting was then closed.

Cottage Maintenance.

During the period from September 23rd to 26th a number of members (and one visitor) worked three full days with some part time help on the Sunday. It should be pointed out that for the last few years the place has become a filthy and neglected ruin. Some 35 lbs of "Snowcem" distemper and paint have now been used this summer; cement and wood have also been used in strengthening the floors and walls. 1st. priority has been given to the outside since it must not be said that we are making the district into a slum. Doors, windows and beds in addition to simple furniture have also received attention but much still remains to be done to the outside as well as to the inside. The Cottage Warden, alone, cannot keep up with all the essential repairs. The H.Q. keeps the club together and enables a great amount of caving to be done in a very fine caving district, the envy of many other clubs. Surely all active members can put in one or two weekends in a year which would help to keep things up to scratch. In case you do not know, under the terms of our lease we are responsible for all repairs. Surely any caver can use a hammer or a paint brush! As Secretary I would like to thank those who have donated paint and other materials as well as sacrificing time from their sport. They have pioneered the way - will you help to complete their work before the worst of winter comes?

Some jobs still to be done:-

- Repairs to chimneys, roofs, guttering and piping.
- Pointing walls (filling holes with cement) and "snowceming"
- Repairs to window and door frames.
- Plastering walls and ceilings, distempering and painting.
- Making tackle, clothing racks and shelves, etc.

W.H. Little.

Thanks.

The Club is grateful to Dr. Williams of Craig-y-Nos for the gift of a two-burner paraffin stove.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. W. B. Jones of Birmingham for the donation of £1 to the club. He was a recent visitor to the Club.

Car Park.

The former front garden of the cottage will easily take five cars now that the entrance has been widened. Please do not block the drive with your 'Rolls', no 'bike' pedal assisted or otherwise. Please do not drive over the neighbours' front doorsteps.

Bonfire.

There will be a bonfire of all old kit, clothing and footwear lying in the 'end' cottage and which no longer appears to be used. These will be burnt during November unless neatly tied in bundles or bags and clearly labelled with the owners name.

Tunnel Cave.

Preliminary survey reports indicate that the near end of Davy Price's Hall is level with the path across the scree to Ogof yr Esgyrn (Bone Cave) above Dan-yr-Ogof entrance. The distance through the scree is about 100ft - an impracticable dig unless more progress can be made from inside. It would be most desirable to have an entrance that does not flood!!

After considering reports on the damage to the appearance of the mudbanks and formations on them the committee have accepted the apologies of the party concerned. It is most regrettable that the youths who trampled all over them were ignorant of what they were doing. They were not members of the Club.

More tracer tape has been fixed. Please do not cross it.

Congratulations.

Our congratulations go to Margaret and Bernard Dembo on the birth of a son - John Anthony.

Ogof y Ci.

A visit was made to this interesting cave a few weeks ago by several members of the Club. On reaching the 'final' chamber they were disgusted to find the names of two members of the Club scratched on the walls. This childish and stupid practice shows that these individuals cannot care about the caves from which they derive much pleasure nor can they care about the beauty of the caves being preserved for those who come after them.

D. W. Jenkins.

Publications.

The following publications have been received:-

- C.R.G. Transactions. Vol. 3. No. 1.
- C.R.G. Newsletter. No. 48.

Change of address.

Mr and Mrs. A.H. Hill. Hawley Manor, Hawley, Nr. Deptford, Kent.
Mr and Mrs. P.I.W. Harvey. 157, Commercial Road, Newport, Mon.
Miss. S. Bowden-Lyle, 185, Church Rd, Redfield, Bristol. 5.
Dr. R.A.J. Pearce, 3, Rodwell Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts.
B.D. Price Esq., 143, King Street, Brynmawr, Brecs.
D.A. Willis Esq., 129, Broxholm Rd., West Norwood, London, S.E. 27.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

For the benefit of new members and visiting clubs the rules of entry and the approved list of leaders are given below.

Rules of Entry.

1. The key to the cave shall be kept by Mr. John Barrows, at Y Grithig Cottage. If there is no-one at this address a key may be obtained from Mr Cyril Powell at Rhongyr Uchaf Farm.

2.a. The key will only be issued to a person whose name is on the approved list of leaders, or who holds written authority from the Committee of the S.W.C.C.

2.b. Mr John Barrows shall have full authority to refuse entry to the cave.

2.c. All members of the party must sign the book kept by Mr John Barrows (or Mr Cyril Powell), before entering the cave and again on leaving the cave.

2.d. The leader must indicate in the book his proposed route through the cave and also state whether it is intended to carry out any work or excavation.

3. The leader after opening the cave must return the key to Y Grithig Cottage and close the door behind the party, before proceeding. The lock will be of the Yale type so that it can be opened from the inside. If the key has been obtained from Rhongyr Uchaf Farm it should be hung inside the cave on the hook provided.

N.B. The door must be closed behind each party.

4. The maximum number of any party under one leader is six. If novices are included in a party there must be at least one experienced caver to two such novices.

5. The Upper Toast Rack Series will be closed to all parties except by prior arrangement with Mr Barrows or Mr. Powell on each occasion.

6. Visiting Clubs must obtain written authority from the S.W.C.C., and such permission to be applied for at least three clear weeks before the intended visit.

Full details of the number of the party must be given with the written application, and if the leader of the party is not on the Approved List either the S.W.C.C. will appoint a leader or provide one.

Approved List of Leaders.

Dr. E. Aslett T.B. Clinic, Courtauld Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil.
 J. Barrows. Y Grithig, Penycae, Swansea Valley.
 W. E. Clarke. 23, Beechwood Rd., Uplands, Swansea.
 D. A. Coase, Batsford, Lower Failand, Bristol. 8.
 J. M. Davies. 32, Heol-y-Deri, Rhwbina, Nr. Cardiff.
 L. S. Dingle, 2, Penylan Terrace, Roath, Cardiff.
 W. C. Freeman. c/o Navigation Dept. Technical Collage, Cardiff.
 A. E. Glennie. Seaton House, Shrublands Rd., Berkhamstead, Herts.
 Miss. P. Hardwidge, 15, Heol Wernlas, Whitchurch, Glam.
 P. I. W. Harvey. 157, Commercial Rd., Newport, Mon.
 Miss. A. M. A. Hazelton Seaton House, Shrublands Rd., Berkhamstead, Herts.
 L. A. Hawes. Corner Cottage, Rounton Rd., Church Crookham, Hants.
 A. H. Hill. Hawley Manor, Hawley, Nr. Deptford, Kent.
 C. E. Hill. Penlee, Heol Cserhwys, Rhwbina, Nr. Cardiff.
 Dr. A. J. R. Hudson. Mackworth Villa, St. Thomas, Swansea.
 D. G. Hunt. 19, Spring Street, Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.
 D. W. Jenkins. Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells, Rads.
 W. H. Little. 29, Wrekin Rd., Sutton Coldfield, Wares.
 I. Nixon. Guilden House, Nr. Royston, Herts.
 J. G. Parks. The Grange, Thornbury, Glos.
 Dr. R. A. J. Pearce, 3, Rodwell Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts.
 W. Ashford Price. Ynyswen, Penycae, Swansea Valley.
 C. L. Railton. 12, Chester Road North, Sutton Coldfield, Wares.
 Mrs. M. E. Railton. " " " " " "
 G. O. Thomas. 5, Farnville Road, Splott, Cardiff.
 J. Truman. 19, Dorset Rd., Ealing, London. W. 5.
 T. A. Underwood. 12, Harris Terrace, Penrhiwceiber, Glam.

Floods in Glyn-tawe, August 2nd. 1954.

It started raining about midday on Sunday and it rained without ceasing for twenty-one hours. During the early hours of Monday August 2nd. it was extremely heavy and from Sunday to 9. a. m. Monday 3.04 inches of rain had fallen.

At 8. a. m. the floor of the cottage was under 3 ins. of water, and the Llynfell was running merrily through the front garden. The Tawe was said to be 7 ft. above normal in some places and water flowed across the road into Tavern-y-Gareg and also in front of the church. Havoc was caused to the stream banks at the entrance to Tunnel Cave but a strong party cleared out the collapsed boulders allowing the smaller material to be washed away. More serious however were the effects inside since Lewis Railton has reported that the boulder choke has been undermined causing a fall near the foot of the ladder in the Blasted Shaft. (Since this report was received the damage has been repaired and the way up is now easy as the squeeze has been removed. - Ed.)

Les Hawes and a party went up the valley and reported risings

in the hillside near the old lime kiln between Dgn-yr-Ogof and the Haffes but these were not investigated as the party was about to leave for Ffryddiau Twrch to see the excavations.

In Ogof Ffynnon Ddu John Barrows was surprised to see water flowing beneath the new entrance towards the old entrance although water was not issuing from there. Later that morning as the water subsided, he saw water coming through the Short Cut and running into Entrance Pool. For the last couple of years this pool has been silted up as the result of 'road making' in the entrance but now the sand has been washed out again.

Bill Clarke, who later lead a party into the cave, reported that froth marks were $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. above the level of Pluto's Bath. In Boulder Chamber the lower of the large blocks in the choke were washed clean and the pebble floor had altered slightly while the 'pots' beneath the Waterfall Traverse were filled.

It was a week later before I went in and saw the damage done to Powell's footpaths. Below the step into the Short Cut the washing out of sand and pebbles clearly supported John Barrows' report of water running through the Short Cut. The stream, however, had not run through the Cathedral since the sand and gravel on the artificial path was undisturbed. Towards Flood Passage the water must have backed up into Fault Chamber as it had flooded well up into the main passage and had flowed down Fault Passage presumably into the Short Cut. The Causeway built round the corner of Flood Passage was substantially undamaged although the gravelled surface had been washed off. Between the oxbow in Flood Passage and the Toast Rack climb where the floor had been levelled and gravelled there was evidence that this had been washed away in places down to bedrock and the concrete channel which carries the water from Pant Canal overflow had been undermined. The wall in front of the Bye-Pass was still intact so most of the flow must have come through Pluto's Bath as denoted by the froth marks on the wall.

The first Traverse was washed clean as were the floors on either side for some 4 ft. back from the Traverse wall. At the 'Step' froth marks were still left on the wall towards the Loopway some 18ft. above normal and within a foot of having flowed through Loopway itself.

The flood was however very much higher than that at the end of August 1951 but even then we did not have as much as 3ins. of rain in one night. The route from the Rawl (Bolt Passage and Bolt Traverse etc.) discovered in 1951 and 1952 made into a practicable way out in ordinary floods would probably have been useless early on the Monday morning even assuming that the first Traverse was passable for Flood Passage and Entrance Passage would not have been. Pant Canal would have been a doubtful hope for a proportionate increase of flow there, if it did not bring the lake up to the roof would probably have made the squeeze in Gour Passage impossible.

Beyond the Tawe the rising of the river Mellte at Porth-yr-Ogof had been higher than for some time. In front of the bedding plane on the right about 20ft. above the normal level of the rising some nettles had been washed away and other weeds

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were laid flat. Inside the bedding plane part of the gravel bank had been removed and the floor was washed clean. The bedding plane connects with the river behind the rising via a rift. The Mellte must have been running very high to back up 20ft. inside the cave which for the most part must have been flooded to the roof. Waht happened in the Neath caves I have not seen. Could Pwll-y-Rhyd take all the water or did it run over the surface? Waht about the boulders in Bridge Cave supposing the river flowed into the entrance? At Ffryddiau Twrch, as you will read later on, the flood waters were being put to good use by the diggers.

It is a pity that at such times there are so many things to do and that as a result so few observations are recorded.

W.H.Little. 11/8/54.

Ffryddiau Twrch Once Again.

Although Ffryddiau Twrch has been described in previous newsletters another discription here would give some idea of the difficulties facing anyone thinking of digging there. It is a large spring rising through boulders on the right bank of the river Twrch some five miles west of the Swansea Valley. To reach there you either cross the mountains from Craig-y-Nos or go by road as far as Cwmllynfell and walk up the Twrch from there. Whichever way you choose, it takes a whole day to transport the necessary gear to the site.

Having visited the spring sometime last year and having seen the methods used on the previous attempts, I decided to try some other way of getting in, and on July 17th with several other members I carried over most of the tools ready for the last week of the month.

The party for that week included A.B. Afford and five other members of the Birmingham Cave and Crag Club, Dick Underwood and myself. A.B. and Dick stayed on for the following week and we were joined by Clive Jones and John Hartwell from Glynneath. The first few nights we camped by the river a mile downstream but later we moved into the old farmhouse called Syrfan just opposite Dorwen.

All the west bank of the Twrch is covered with glacial drift in some places as hugh moraines and the only limestone visible is the boulders through which the stream rises. It was my idea to try and find solid rock and follow it down to the cave which, no doubt, is there. We started to dig about twenty feet above the stream, tipping all the debris into the water to be washed away. Only a few feet down was limestone, presumably solid, and as we dug lower we uncovered more rock until we had a cliff face to follow. As the dig proceeded we discovered, however, that the rock was by no means solid, and though it was still in beds, it was merely boulders with clay between. To make things worse the general dip of the beds is towards the river and we had to be constantly watching for falling rock.

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It seems that what cave was there before glacial times, was a bedding plane and that the weight of ice and debris has caused a collapse at least a hundred feet across between the normal rising and the flood rising to the left.

By Tuesday evening we had cut down about ten feet, finding the deeper the dig became, the wider it had to be and so there was much more material to be moved. The smaller boulders were broken up with a sledge hammer, but having no explosives, we had to leave the larger ones and dig round them. On Wednesday morning it rained quite heavily and work was stopped. In the evening on returning we found that the stream was in flood and rising from under the cliff face and for a few hours it helped us to remove quite a lot of debris. The work continued on Thursday, making use of the little flood water left, but on Friday morning we found that a huge section of the bank had fallen in overnight. As the collapse contained some huge blocks that we had no hope of removing the dig was abandoned until the Sunday when Bill Little came over from Craig-y-Nos with some explosives. The blocks were disposed of in a few hours and cleared away, and we were left with tons of clay and turf to dig out, which would have proved much easier to move if we had the help of the flood water.

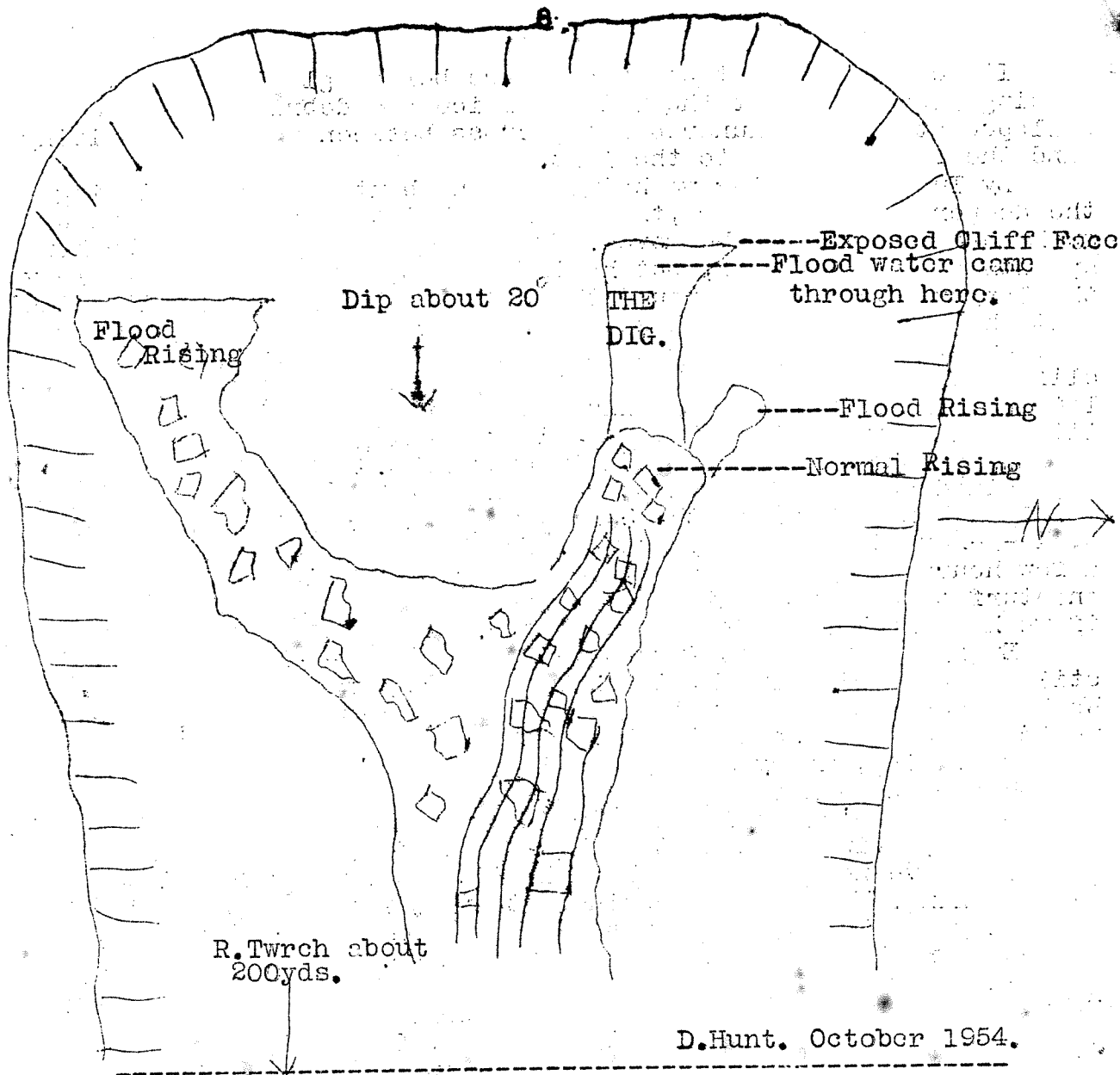
Everyone who spent August Monday at Craig-y-Nos, or better still at Ffryddiau Twrch, will have good reason to remember it. We had been hoping for rain, but had no idea that our prayers would be answered so copiously. It started about nine o'clock on Sunday evening, and by Monday morning, there were floods higher than had been seen for many years.

At seven o'clock in the morning we left Syrffan for the dig in heavy rain, having been kept awake all night by the roar of the river. I have never seen such a glorious sight as "ffryddiau Twrch" that morning. Water was bursting out everywhere, and the noise was deafening as the stream, increased tenfold on the previous day, rushed down the steep hillside to the river. It was rising under the cliff two feet deep and had washed away many tons of debris. Though it was dangerous work in that torrent, we waded in and with picks and crowbars kept lowering the bed. Once we had to jump clear as several yards of bank fell in, but in ten minutes it had all been washed away.

Though we had cut down fifteen feet at the back of the dig there was still no sign of an overhang and the water was still coming up through boulders. Later in the day more of the bank fell in, and, due to the heavy rain, the cliff face began to shed boulders making it too dangerous to carry on so the dig was abandoned altogether.

In all, well over a hundred cubic yards of debris was dug out, but this amount was only made possible by the help of the flood water, which now that a new stream bed has been cut, will do quite a bit of work for us in our absence.

During the following week the rest of the party had a look around for other digs in the area, and found that the most inviting place was where a small stream sinks about a mile to the west, the only known sink for Ffryddiau Twrch. This may be the scene of the next dig, perhaps next year.



On Saturday July 3rd. Clive Jones and I discovered a small cave since named Ogof Glammellite about half a mile downstream from Porth yr Ogof on the river left hand bank. It contains a small stream and is about 150ft. long ending in a squeeze too tight for those who have visited it, but the roof appears to rise only a few feet further on.

D.Hunt.

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