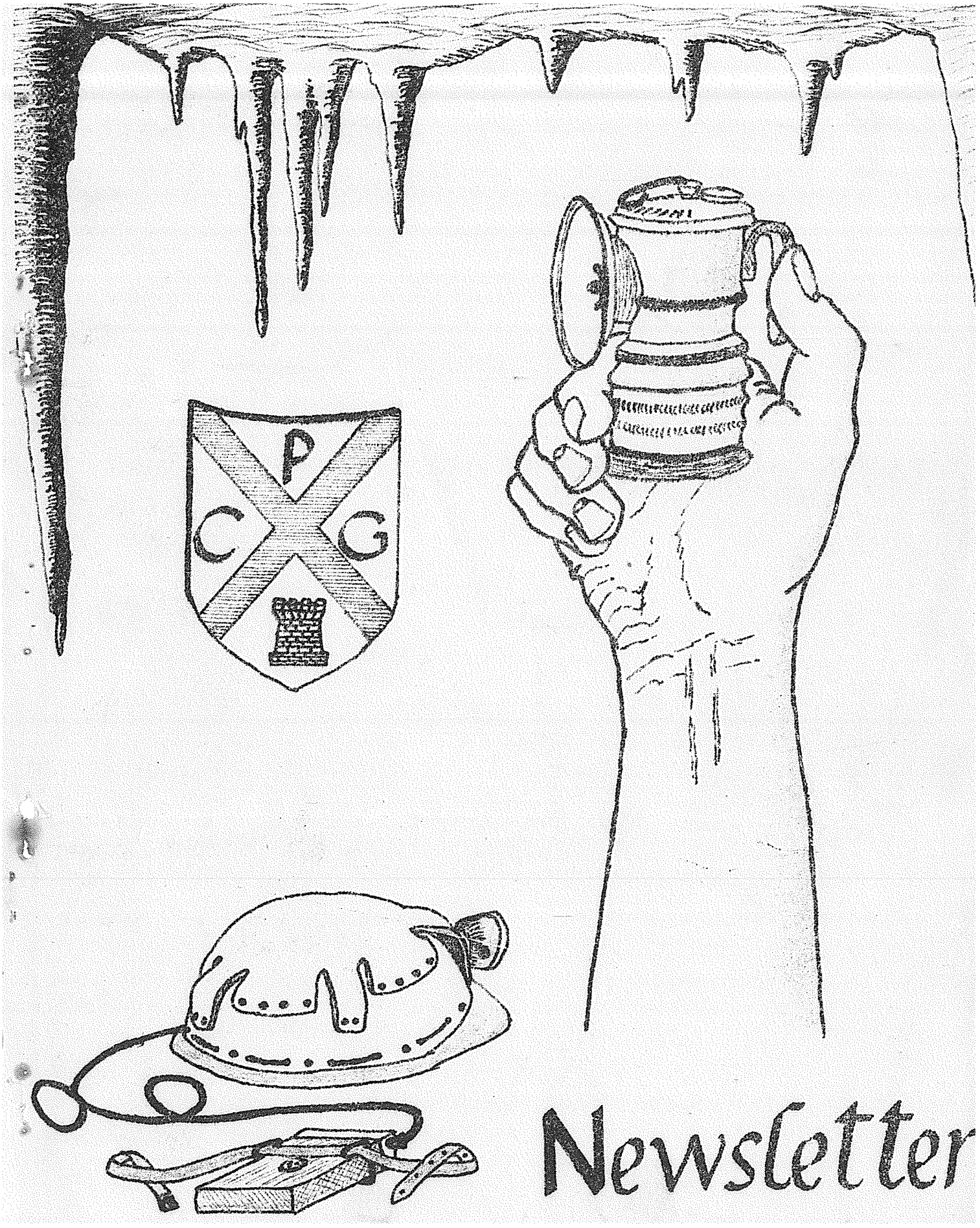


Newsletter

PLYMOUTH CAVING GROUP.

Newsletter and Bulletin. Number Eleven.

May - June 1964.

Future Meets.

Saturday June 6th. Cave Rescue Practice at Lady Virtuous Copper Mine. 8.45 am bus from Bretonside. Bus fare about 3/6d.

Sunday, June 21st. Afton Red Rift, Leader L.Fletcher
10.00am bus, No 128 from Bretonside. Fare about 8/-.

Saturday, July 4th. Cliffords Cave, Chudleigh. Leader R.C.Bray.
8 am bus, no.129, from Bretonside. Bus fare about 9/-.

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Congratulations

-- to Pat and Terry Marston on the birth of a son, Richard, on Saturday, May 9th. The P.C.G. offers its best wishes for the future and looks forward when it will have another Marston in the club.

New Members.

We welcome the following new full members to the P.C.G. :-

G.A.Widgery. 4, Hollycroft Road, Higher Compton, Plymouth.
T.F.Barbour. 58, Whiteford Road, Mannamead, Plymouth.
R.Cawthorne. 34, Tavistock Road, Stoke, Plymouth.

We all wish that their membership will be a long and full one.

New Style Newsletter.

Members will note that Bulletin material is now being included in the Group's Newsletter. Any member who has any articles to contribute is welcomed to send them to the Editor.

Special Publication on Radford.

All full members should have received their copy of the Radford Publication.If you have not received it yet please let the Editor know.

Further copies of this second publication may be obtained from the Editor price 4/6.,including postage.

DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES outside any cave you may visit.We have had a report during the last few weeks of personal property "walking".

Erratum.

Re. Two Mines near Plymouth.Newsletter No 10. April 64.

In my article in the last newsletter the following errors were made and,in the interest of clarity and accuracy,the correct version is as below.

1). South Bedford and East Gunnislake. (Quote from Dines.)

Deep Adit Level,33 fms. below Gullett's Shaft collar and 16 fms. below Red Whim collar connects the two shafts and extends 20 fms. W. of Gullett's to the Great Crosscourse and 35 fms.E. of Red Whim to its portal on the river bank.

2).Mines of Cornwall by Thomas Spargo was published in 1865 not 1850.

R.C.Bray.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Adventure unlimited could be the Motto of the British Sub-Aqua Club.Aqualung diving has become the fastest growing sport in the World and offers the excitement of new adventures on every dive. The Sea - even in shallow waters - is relatively unexplored and offers the challenge of new discoveries,whether wrecks,marine life or numerous other fields.The Plymouth Sound Branch of the B.S.A.C. is now taking on new members,expert or beginners.Join,train and dive with us NOW.Details from M.J.Wood,8 Gifford Place,Mutley,Plymouth or R. Leonard of the P.C.G..Remember - Get Wet !

Plymouth Lecture.

The lecture given by the Editor on the 16th April was attended by just over 100 members of the public. The invitation to a trip to Radford cave was taken up by some 15 or 16 persons,two of which turned back just inside the entrance.It is hoped that the P.C.G. will have gained a few new members from this.

IMPORTANT

CAVE RESCUE PRACTICE CAVE RESCUE PRACTICE.

On Saturday, June 6th, the P.C.G. Cave Rescue Organisation is holding the first practice this year. It is important that as many persons as possible attend. Remember that the safety of cavers in the South West is in the hands of the rescue organisation.

On the day prior to the practice, the 5th, there will be a meeting at Virginia House at 7.30 pm. for demonstrations in technique and to view the many improvements and additions made to the rescue apparatus. Please do your best to attend.

The improvements made to the rescue organisation have been carried out by Phil. Nottle - he will be writing an article on the present rescue situation in the next issue of this publication.

The present call out procedure is being brought up to date and all members who are available will soon be contacted. Importance will be attached to the speed at which the team may be assembled, we hope to have a team at Virginia House, ready to move off within 30 minutes of call out. The whole team and tackle will then be able to move off together.

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AT -

LADY VIRTUOUS COPPER MINE.

8.45 a.m. bus from Bretonside. Bus fare about 3/6d

Membership for 1964.

D.Ashton, 16,Belstone Ave.,West Park,Plymouth.
T.F.Barbour, 58,Whiteford Rd.,Mannamead,Plymouth.
M.Bond,4,Sea View Ter.,Peaslands Rd.,Sidmouth.
R.C.Bray, 51,Dale Gdns.,Mutley,Plymouth.
H.Browning, 37,York Rd.,Paignton.
C.Bryson, 25,Torr Cresc.,Hartley,Plymouth.
R.Cawthorne, 34,Tavistock Rd.,Stoke,Plymouth.
T.J.Collings, 27, Queens Rd.,Lipson,Plymouth.
P.R.Cousins, 3,Kinver Rd.,Sydenham,London,S.E. 26.
I.Deer, C/o H.M.S. Eagle.
R.Ellis, 18,Hill Close,Plympton.
P.Evans,Miss, 7,Ermington Ter.,Mutley,Plymouth.
L.Fletcher, 88,Camden St.,Greenbank,Plymouth.
P.Hall, 78,Milton Pk.,London,N.6.
S.L.Harris, 58,Carnock Rd.,Manadon,Plymouth.
R.L.Hooper,12,Radnor St.,Greenbank,Plymouth.
D.H.Jeffrey, 34,Carnock Rd.,Manadon,Plymouth.
R.G.Jeffrey, 34,Carnock Rd.,Manadon,Plymouth.
B.Jenkin, Bedruthan,Cuttings Hill,Camborne.
R.S.Lake, 4,Chedworth St.,Greenbank,Plymouth.
G.H.P.Lang,15,South Ave.,Heavitree,Exeter.
R.Leonard,57,Thornhill Rd.,Mannamead,Plymouth.
P.Marston,Mrs, 3,Maple Grove,Plympton.
T.Marston, 3,Maple Grove,Plympton.
R.J.Martin, 430,Blanford Road,Efford,Plymouth.
V.Menhennet, 55,The Glebe,Camborne.
M.L.Neale, 11,Norman Rd.,Paignton.
P.C.Nottle, 34,Revel Rd.,Hr. Compton,Plymouth.
J.F.Percival, [illegible] 20,Crantock Terr.,Ford,Plymouth.
M.Percival,Miss, 20 Crantock Terr.,Ford,Plymouth.
P.D.Price, 9 Mount Gold Cresc.,St.Judes,Plymouth.
D.R.Phillips, 54, Fisher Rd.,Stoke,Plymouth.
J.E.G.Reed, 12,Market St.,Buckfastleigh.
S.Seabrook, 2 Old 'E' Block,Cranby Barracks,Devonport.
Lt. Comm. Shaw,H.M.S.Lion, C/o G.P.O.,London.
Dr.A.J.Sutcliffe, 57,York Ave.,London,S.W. 14.
D.J.Ward, 'Beccles',Burrator Rd.,Dousland,Yelverton.
G.N.Wood, 29,St.Gabriels Ave.,Peverell,Plymouth.
G.A.Widgery, 4,Hollycroft Rd.,Hr. Compton,Plymouth.
M.Williams, 18,Plym St.,Plymouth.
V.A.Yates,Miss,16,Trematon Tce.,Mutley,Plymouth.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

Joint Mitnor Cave Buckfastleigh by A.Sutcliffe Ph.D.
(Trans. Torquay Nat.Hist Soc.)

Some notes on a cave near Radford by J.H.D.Hooper
(Trans. Devon. Ass.)

Mendip Caving Group Journal 1962
Includes articles on Cliffords Cave Chudleigh and on making an accumulator charger.

Cave Rescue (C.R.G.) by Dr. O.Lloyd.

Cave Hunting Chap vii Caves of Devonshire by Boyd Dawkins 1874.

Biological Records Part viii 1960 - 1962

Schanhohlen in Ostereich (English notes)

Die Dachstein Mohlen

Wessex Cave Club Journal. Vol 8 Nos. 92,93(notes on Plymouth cave 94.

Chelsea Spelaeological Society. Vol 6 Nos 4 (Jan 64),5 (Feb 64)

Bradford Potholing Club. Vol 3 No 3 (Rhodamine B water tracing)
5 (Index to C.R.G. Newsletters)
7,8,9,10.
Vol 4 Nos 1,2,3.

Leeds University Union Spel. Soc..
Explorations in countries Sliger and Leitrim Eve 59/60
Trogazette 61,62,63.

Northern Cave Club Northern Caving Nos 1,2.

D.S.S. Newsletters Nos 1 to 87.

P.C.R.C. Newsletters nos 1,2.

O.S. Maps 1" Mendip ; 2½" Ingleborough.

BOOKS.

One Thousand Metres Down - Journey to the Starless River
by Jean Cadoux.

Mendip - Cheddar,its Gorge and Caves by H.E.Balch

Wilderness under the Earth by H.W. Franke

Potholing Beneath the Northern Pennines by David Heap.

Caving and Potholing by D.Robinson and A Greebank.

The books and journals listed above may be borrowed by any member for a reasonable length of time.If they have to be sent by

post PLEASE enclose the necessary cash for postage and package otherwise the Group may go bankrupt !

R.C.Bray,
Hon. Librarian
51, Dale Gdns.,
Mutley,
Plymouth.

Investigation of sinks near Plymouth by Bob Lake.

On the evening of April 10th, Lou Fletcher (Letcher Fletcher to his friends. Editor) called on me to say that John Collings was going out the Elburton to look for two streams which, according to the survey of the area, hit the limestone belt and disappeared. On the way to Elburton, on the road by Stag Lodge, John noticed a small quarry at the top of the hill. We investigated and found a few small holes but these were only big enough for rodents. The quarry was near Hazeldene so we asked the owners if they could help us. They told us, that as far as they knew, one of the streams had been diverted and the other was on a neighbouring landowner's property. We looked around for the rest of the evening but found little. The neighbouring landowner, Mr Lawson was out so we decided to try again on the Saturday.

The next afternoon we set out again, this time accompanied by Jeff. Percival. We first called at Mr Lawson's house but he was out again. We searched the neighbouring area and found two small streams which did, infact, disappear, one into a pipe and the other into a pool of mud. We then decided to look at the Yealmpton area where there were small areas of limestone which we had not previously investigated but these small patches of limestone eluded us.

We then returned to Stag Lodge and found two more disappearing streams but once again they were very small. We returned home via the illusive Mr Lawson but he was still out.

Although we could not claim to have found any massive sinks, the investigation was very interesting and important. We now know that these streams are not sources of future active stream passages which is, ofcourse, disappointing.

CAVING TOMORROW.

by T.K.Marston.

Today the trend is for more citizens of these islands to partake in Physical Recreation and Sport.The advent of the motor c ar and the spread of its ownership to a larger section of the population has resulted in the widening of horizons.

The increase in liesure time and the prospect of an even larger increase in the next half century is one of the reasons why sports and activities such as skin diving,walking,caving and potholing, camping,climbing,sailing and water sports are booming.Also the trend with annual holidays is slowly changing from the week at Blackpool or the "Cooks Tour" abroad to holidays with a purpose or theme.This is especially true with young people.

Certain organisations,notably the Youth Hostels Association, C.C.P.R.,C.H.A. and the National Association of Youth Clubs and Boys Clubs are fully aware of this development and are catering for such holidays for ever increasing numbers.

The result is that there is an even greater pressure on the memberships of the various societies from those whose appetites have been whetted.It can be argued,although I do not subscribe to the view myself,that membership of such societies should be limited in order that we can contain numbers within reasonable proportions.Such a policy is quite likely to increase the number of clubs of one particular interest in any one area with the consequent diversification of recourses and little co-ordination or control.This is apparent if one looks at the Spelaeological Year Book where some "Clubs" have memberships of less than 20.

I propose,at this point,to confine the remarks to caving but many points will apply equally to other sports.

Those of us on Caving Committees know that more and more people are taking up the sport if only as a result of studying the membership applications or by finding that the cave or pothole we intended visiting on a particular day is already occupied when we arrive.

This stark fact reveals a number of problems which we,as a caving fraternity will have to solve before they are solved for us by unwelcomed means.I have listed these points but their order

is not one of priorities,each is important in its own right :-

1). The problem of cave conservation.

2). The training of Novices.

3). The organisation of effective rescue procedures.

4). The correct use of National Parks and prpper relationships with land owners.

5).The fact that the majority of cavers are in the 15 - 25 years age group and that they must be provided with proper facilities.

6).The need for a central co-ordinating body.

1).The problem of cave conservation can only be effected through education and by example but the question i pose is wether this necessarily means the gating of caves ? There is much to be said for this procedure where caves exist in built up areas e.g. Plymouth,but I cannot see any justification,apart from legal requirements in special cases and sites of scientific interest.

2).The training of Novices. If we are to prevent unnecessary disaster and adverse publicity it is a fundamental duty of all caving clubs to instruct its novices to become competant cavers. Some clubs do this but many do not and standards vary between clubs in the same area.

Some organisations run caving holidays where,if the leader is conscientiuos in his duties,the participants may learn the rudiments of caving.However, one week's instruction has never yet made a good,safe caver.Another question which needs investigation at the moment is the recruitment by these organisations of leaders and instructions for their caving holidays.

The Cave Research Group has published a syllabus for the training of cavers and it is to be hoped that this will be adopted,suitably modified to meet local needs,by ~~the~~ many clubs as a basis of all novice instruction.Some clubs require certain standards of competence before full membership is granted and I fully subscribe to this idea.Where safety of the party depends upon the competence of each club member,it is logical that each should have the confidence of the club.

3). Cave Rescue Organisation.

Until recent years Rescue Organisations were set up only in certain areas with little co-ordination between them.Large gaps existed and it was only in 1963 that any attempt was made to call a national conference of interested parties.I sincerely hope that such an organisation will flourish.However,the thorny problem of finance for such specialised equipment is bound to put a strain on the finances of participating clubs and many feel that capital locked away in equipment of such low load factor is not the best way of using ones resources.

4).National Parks and Land Owner Relationships.

In many areas,particularly the North,relationships with land-owners broke down 3 years ago because of wanton damage and carelessness caused by individuals and some clubs.Things came to a head following a series of unfortunate accidents.To alleviate this problem and secure access for bonafide clubs,a Northern Council of Caving Clubs has been organised and would appear (from 350 miles distance) to be successful.A similar organisation now exists on Mendip to control access to the Charterhouse Group of caves but this was set up for other reasons.

Many of our caves are in National Parks and most of the remainder are in areas of outstanding beauty even if not so designated.I,personally,would like to see all caves designated as National Parks or National Monuments on a similar principle to those in the U.S.A..The control of access to such caves would rest with a central body and local committees and the right of way would be guaranteed.Strict observation of the Country Code would be necessary and land owners property would have to be respected but surely no one would disagree with these conditions. Such ideas to be put into effect require parliamentary legislation and any pressure group will have to be strong and united to be effective.

As cavers,we must expect that certain areas will be closed for certain periods eg lambing season,grouse nesting and shooting,but we must accept this as part of the deal.

Many people regard National Parks as areas to be protected from development and from the masses,but I feel that this is an

unrealistic approach.What we must argue for is the development of, and development in,the National Parks of facilities and industry which is of the greatest benefit to all.The National Parks ,after all, are for the Nation i.e. the masses,and the Nation must be taught to use the parks and appreciate them.

5). Age groups.

By far the greater proportion of cavers belong to the 15- 25 age group which means that they are within the youth group age or just out of it. The nett result is that we have a body of keen,adventure seeking and sometimes high spirited individuals who are the life blood of any society.I think that if we look at this age group we will find that it is a group which is expanding more than any others.This group is usually on fairly low wages and saleries and its members are not all committee minded and yet,as a group,they command the greatest expenditure by the club. What they can contribute in club spirit cannot be equaled in terms of hard cash and yet they have to be provided with all the facilities including a membership subscription which is within their means,bearing in mind that most of their pocket money and ready cash is spent on personal equipment and caving trips.

Much time and effort is spent by clubs with fund-raising schemes to provide capital for equipment and premises in the caving areas. Whilst this is healthy in moderate amounts,it can generate an unsatisfactory state of affairs when it distracts and dissipates the energy which should be utilised for caving.

This age group,or sections of it,is being,or has been studied by more Government and Royal Commissions than any other section of the population e.g. Albermarle,Crowther,Robbins,Newsam,Juvenile Crime etc..Most of these reports are concerned with the development of our youth and the widening of their education and personalities. Consequently,their recomendations ,directly or indirectly, affect caving as well as other activities. One report recommends Government and Local Authority Finance for special interest groups towards premises,capital equipment and possibly administration,this is very important to the caving fraternity.

I think a very good case could be made for grant aid towards special interest groups such as caving clubs and perhaps this is

the way a future ministry of sport will work.(It is interesting to note that the Ministers of Sport ,Education and Science are at present under the auspices of one man and if such a practice were to be perpetrated it would make dealings on behalf of spelaeology more convenient !)

Dare one hope that we would evem get capital grants for Cave Rescue equipment ? Already much progress towards this end has been made by the Plymouth Caving Group as a result of our qualification for affiliation to the Youth Committee of the Local Education Authority by way of our large number of youth club age group membership (15 - 22).As a result of this affiliation we have been eligible to apply for grant aid towards administration nd equipment. We were also put in touch with a local charity which provided £50 towards Cave Rescue equipment which the Youth Committee could not supply. This help has been invaluable and has enabled us to be a little adventurous as a new club and has saved us many years of frustration in trying to scrape up the necessary capital to purchase equipment.For our part we are able to accept young people from youth clubs (and outside them) as members and give them a decent training. For our second year of existence we have received £30 towards the purchase of a typewriter, stationary,ladder building materials and administration.

6). <u>The need for a central co-ordinating body.</u>

I have come to the conclusion that before many years are past, the caving fraternity must have a central co-ordinating body and/or central control.I must confess that I was never too happy with this idea and still have reservations as to how such a body should be constituted and its functions.However,there are many reasons why such a body is necessary -

a. The larger numbers participating in the sport throw strain on resourses,land owner relationships and the C.R.O..

b. There is a great need for a central body to co-ordinate novice training and to advise and assist other bodies on caving matters, particularly those which offer adventure holidays on caving,Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme,Scouts etc..

c. The need to form a pressure group to speak for caving interests. If we are to obtain national recognition of our aims and objectives

to obtain grant aid,to obtain access to caves as a right,then we will have to be organised.

We have,at present,no one body which can speak for caving ,only a large number of clubs,groups and societies pulling in all directions.

Most of the points outlined in this essay could be resolved by a Central Co-ordinating Body and we may find that because we are not properly organised and orientated,the Government and other organisations will not listen to us.

When people argue about providing money for sport,we tend to think of competative sports with a vast majority of spectators aand a few players.I believe that caving is a sport,along with others,in which there are virtually no spectators and should also qualify for consideration.

Rumours have penetrated to Plymouth that the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCRR) is interested in organising a central caving body,but I pose the question - is this best for caving ? Some will argue that the CCPR should act as spokesman for all outdoor activities and there are many points to commend this but I feel that caving requires its own Organisation of Spelaeology run by spelaeologists for spelaeologists.The longer we leave these problems unsolved the greater they become.Unless we act now ,delay will be fatal.

Throughout this essay I have not mentioned one of the important aspects of caving,namely Cave Research and the teaching of the scientific aspects of caving.Indeed,how can we discuss such matters thoroughly and in their proper context until we have a National Body embracing all aspects of spelaeology ?

Although this paper is published by the Plymouth Caving Group and represents the personal views of the Group's Chairman for the consumption by its members,it is also meant for discussion by others further afield. I hope that it will stimulate and crystallise thoughts and I hope that any correspondence received on the subject will be published in this bulletin .

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PENGELLY CAVE STUDIES CENTRE. by Jef. Percival.

Over the Whitsun weekend, the first training course for guide naturalists for the Pnegelly Cave Studies Centre was held at Ashburton Secondary Modern School and three members of the P.C.G. attended viz. Phil Nottle, Pete Price and myself.

The course was spread over three days, from Saturday, May 16th to Monday, May 18th and consisted of nine lectures and a tour of the Centre itself.

Pete and myself went up to Buckfastleigh early Saturday morning and were met at the Centre by Bryn Thomas of the South Wales Caving Club and Bill Maxwell and 'a twin' of the Chelsea Speleo. Soc..(I apologise for not knowing which of the twins it was.)We then went to the school and I must admit I was pleasantly surprised to find that we were accomodated in a very modern building with a very good room for the lectures - good that is until Monday morning when a distraction was caused (to me that was) by one of the local residents sunbathing in a bikini in a nearby garden.(I must hasten to add that it was, infact, a female).

A short lecture was given on the botany of Higher Kiln Quarry by Miss A.Burns but most of the lecture was deferred until the tour of the Centre which was held the following day. Then, after buying a publication on the local geology from Ian Mercer for the P.C.G. library we had a break for dinner.

The afternoon lectures started at 2.15 with a talk by Dr.D. Janossy, of the Museum of Natural History, Budapest, on Cave Studies in Hungary today. Phil Nottle had now arrived and hence was present at this lecture. The talk was of interest to me because he spoke about the Hungarian caving clubs which, incidently are all coordinated under one central body. This idea of central coordination was also mentioned by Dr.C.C.Black, of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, when he spoke to us about caves and caving in Pennsylvania and Tennesee; there, that is in U.S.A., all clubs are affiliated to the National Spelaeological Association, a body of representatives which coordinates the work of all the American caving clubs, or grottos as they are called, and acts as national representative for the American caving fraternity. Most of Dr. Black's lecture was about cave

Palaeontology in the areas mentioned and this was followed by a talk by Dr.Sutcliffe on cave palaeontology in general with particular reference to Joint Mitnor Bone Cave at the Centre. This was the end of the talks for the first day so the three of us went bank to the Centre and did a small amount of work before Dr. Sutcliffe and the others arrived. Phil took a party,including Dr. Janossy and Brig. Glennie of the Cave Research Group,into Reed's Cave to look for cave fauna.In the meantime I took the oppertunity to talk to Dr. Black and found out a lot more about American caving.I also arranged that the P.C.G. exchange publications with Pittsburg Grotto - this has to be sanctioned at the next committee meeting but I am sure there will be no objections.

As six lectures had been held on the Saturday instead of five,we did not start on the Sunday until 11.30 am which gave us all a chance to lie in for a bit.

Colin Bristow was the speaker for one of the Sunday lectures amd he gave us a very interesting account of the geophysical survey which had been carried out at the Centre on the top field. Apparently it had been very successful and a very large cave chamber had been found but I am not at liberty to say where.We are now discussing ways and means of getting into this new chamber.The equipment and technique used would be very useful to try out at Yealmpton and on Plymouth Hoe,but due to expense (about £150) and the need for a certain amount of technical knowledge,it is outside the range of P.C.G. activities at present.

In the afternoon,the party went to the Centre and discussed aspects of the area which could best be shown to visitors and the best way to present the information.This did deteriorate slightly at the end when we merely got a lecture on Joint Mitnor instead of a discussion on how we could best show off the cave.However,I suppose many of the party had not heard the Bone Cave Lecture as many times as I had.

That night Phil and I decided to sleep out on th e roof of the explosives store as it looked like fine weather but a suddem shower just as wewwere falling off to sleep soon put an end to that.Louis Fletcher and Bob Lake had also arrived during the afternoon and had done some good work on levelling the car park in spite of the hot

weather.

We had only two lectures on Monday, both being in the morning and they started off with a talk by John Hooper on bats. However, due to a misunderstanding, all the people staying at the Centre arrived at 10.30 instead of 10.00 but, after apologies to the speaker, we soon got started. This talk, like many of the others, was illustrated by slides and was very interesting, showing many of the haunts of bats visited by the Hoppers. John Hooper also demonstrated a bat - detector which I thought might have great possibilities but it was shown not to be a versatile as I had thought. I am in no way running the instrument down but as it would cost about £20 to make i.e. from a converted transitor radio, it is outside the present reaches of the P.C.G..

The series of lectures was finished off by a talk on Cave - Dwelling Invertibrates and their distribution by Brig. Glennie but as I stated earlier, I had one eye looking out of the window a lot of the time and therefore missed a lot of the lecture. (I can't help it if I'm not queer!) ((The left glass in his spectacles shows distinct signs of strain! Editor)).

However, the whole lecture programme was very interesting but I was rather disappointed by the attendance. This, I think, could have been avoided had the lectures been held on two days only and if the DSS boat trip had been arranged for another day. One cannot expect working people to give up their whole Whit-holiday to attend a series of lectures especially if they are married and with families. The lecture programme could have been condensed into one day and a tour of the Centre made on another afternoon. If this had been the case, I think more people would have been able to attend.

Our stay at Buckfastleigh was rounded off on the Monday evening by a meeting of interested parties at the St. John's Ambulance H.Q. where Pete Price was co-opted as Working Party Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Centre to organise and find the necessary labour to carry on the work. Roger Hooper also attended this meeting but we all had to leave at 10.00 pm so we had to leave Antony Sutcliffe, Les Neale and Squeak Joint to work out what jobs had to be done. We returned home after a very interesting weekend.

Report on Committee Meetings.

3rd. April 1964 at 27,Queens Road,Lipson,Plymouth.

The club is to exchange publications with the Nortern Cave Club. R.Jeffery is to work with Mr. J.Hooper (DSS) on the subject of bats in the Plymouth area.He is to concentrate on Lesser Horseshoes.

17th. April 1964 at 51,Dale Gdns.,Mutley,Plymouth.

It was decided that a new type of hinge would be used for the gate on Radford Cave as the present one had been broken,A new membership list is to be published soon.Also to be published is a list of publications received from other caving clubs.It was proposed that the club applies for a room to be used as a club room and for storing the library and collections.

It is inevitable that reports of Committee meetings be rather outdated because of the necessity for them to be passed at the following meeting before a summary of them can be published.

Any person either wishing to attend a Committee meeting or to have any particular topic raised should contact either the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary.

P.D.Price.
Assn't Secretary.

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Addition to the membership list.

The name and address of V.Bailey was omitted from the membership list earlier,his address is 3,St. Bridgets Aye., Crownhill,Plymouth.

The address of I.Dear is - Tudor Cottage,Vicarage House, Studdington,Hants.

This brings the total of FULLY PAID UP members up to 42.

Meet Report.

Sunday,19th April,1964. Pridhamsleigh Cavern.

Leaders R.C.Bray and R.Hooper.

Party - H.Browning,R.G.Jeffery,T.Barbour,J.R.White,D.Horrell, P.Martin,J Giles (W.C.C.)

The party left Plymouth on the 10.30 Exeter bus to Buckfastleigh

where we arrived at about 11.30,meeting Hugh Browning at the bus station.We made our way to the Pengelly Barns where we had lunch and changed before walking the mine to the cave.We waited for Rog. Hooper and Jim Giles who arrived at 1.30 pm..

We descended and immediately made our way through the winding entrance tunnel to the Crystal Chamber where we suprised a party cooking soup for dinner surrounded by a mass of burning candles.The delicious smell of hot soup made many of the party feel peckish so we left quickly and headed towards the Rift and onwards to the Lake via the Bypass and the Little Maze.We reached the Lake and I happily plunged in to indulge in a little swim.It was not very many minutes before I realised that the carbide tin in my top pocket had leaked and the contents were erupting violently.In the process of taking the can out of my pocket,it slipped and fell into the Lake and for severel minutes the area was a scene of several loud explosions. This is one of the hazards of carrying carbide but it was unfortunate in that, although extremely diluted in the Lake, it may well have poisoned any animal life in the close vicinity of the accident.

When everything had calmed down again,Jim Giles had swum across to the Groins and back we left the Lake and entered the Stocks and through a 2 ft. high tunnel with 6" water in the bottom to the foot of the Ox-tongue climb.We decided only to go this way as a last resort,prefering to go via the Coal Hole which was some 30 ft further on.The Coal Hole is a hole shaped like a figure 8 in the roof of the passage which is about 6 ft high at this point;the hole itself has each loop of the 8 about one foot in diameter and there is about 2 ft. between the top of the lower passage and the floor of the upper. The first person through was Jim Giles and then the smaller members of the party followed,finally the larger members of the party got through.From the top,it was a few minutes scramble back to Bishop's Chamber where we met two men who were interested in joining the PCG..

From Bishop's Chamber we headed for the Well,avoiding the Man Trap and the Bear Pit and met a party from Hele's School beside the Deep Well trying to retrieve their rope which was jambed over a stal. boss.I swam across the Well with a lifeline and belayed the others without wet suits across.As usual,Bob Jeffery fell in as well as a

few others.Once across,we visited the Flooded Rift,some of the party climbing in the roof and others,notably Hugh Browning,swam underwater ,under a projection,to reach the end of the rift and examined the underwater area.When we climbed out of the water,Hugh wanted to drain the water out of his boiler suit legs so he stabbed at the cloth with a knife and promptly cut himself and covered his immaculate boiler suit with blood.

We scrambled back to the Well where we got the first aid tin and patched Hugh up before returning across the Deep Well when,once again, Bob fell in.When everybody had returned and the rope coiled up,we pushed our way out to the surface about 4.15 p.m..

The walk back along the main road was more pleasant than on the last meet as the weather was much warmer and the members did not get cold,although they got a lot of sympathetic glances from passing motorists.Back at Pengelly,some of the party did a little work and looked over the quarry and Joint Mitnor before catching the 7.16 bus back to Plymouth.

R.C.Bray

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