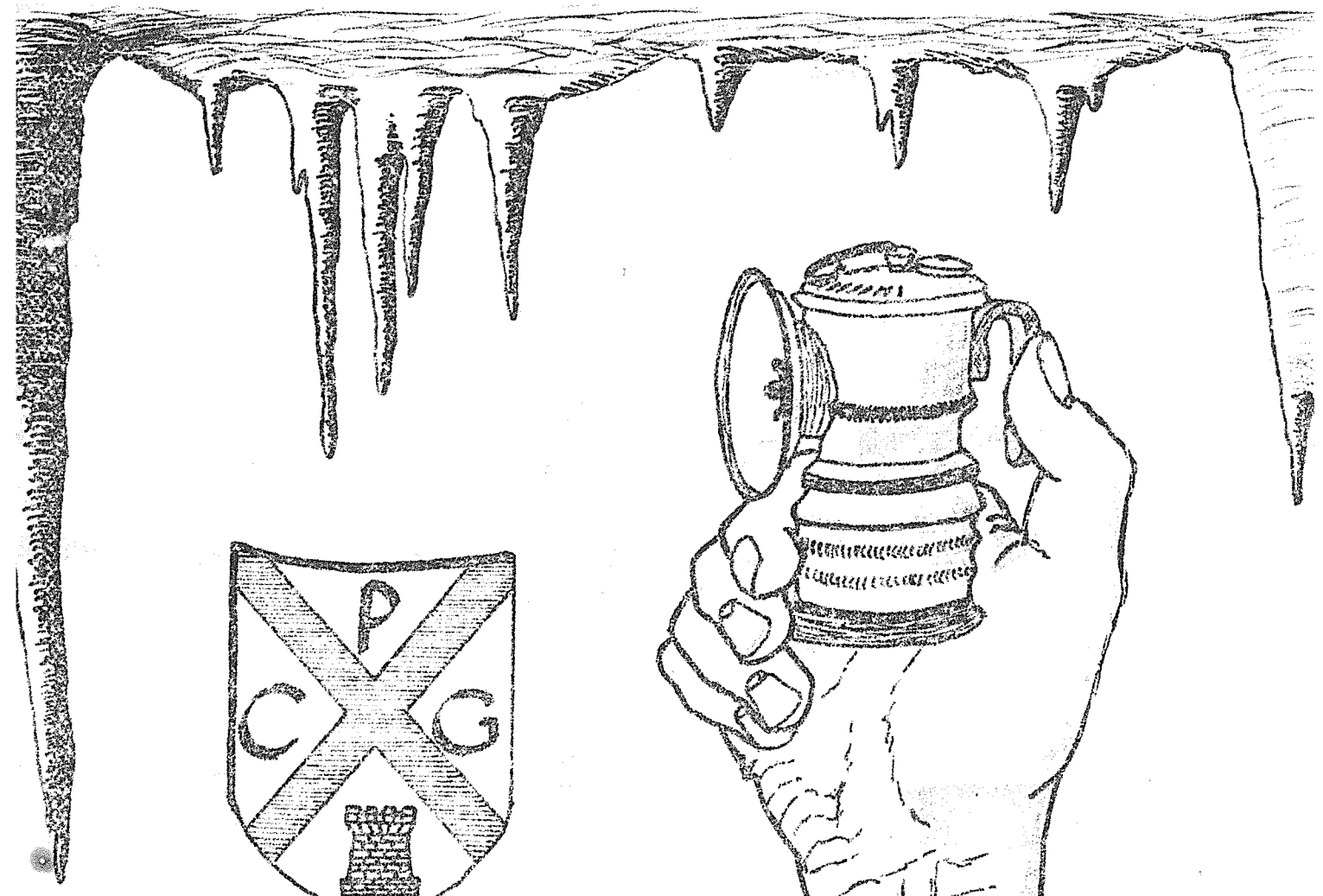
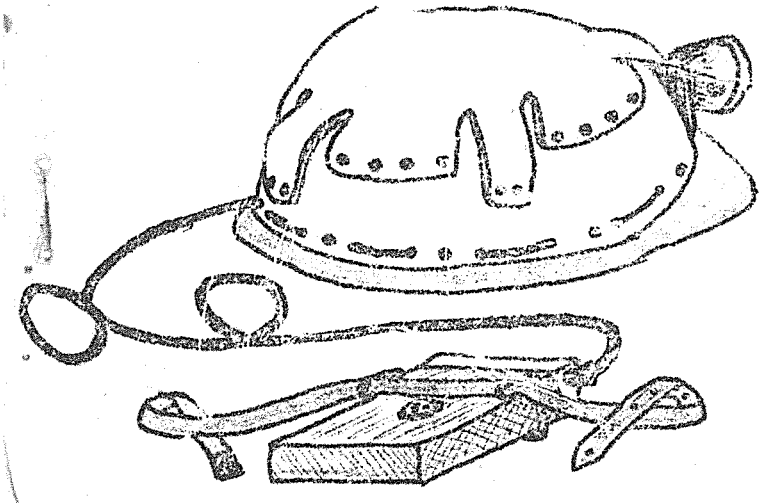




Newsletter.

PLYMOUTH CAVING GROUP. NEWSLETTER No 9.

Feb. 1964.

Future Meets.

Sunday Feb. 23rd. Cliffords Cave.Leader R.Bray.10.30 bus No. 129 from Bretonside.The cave is wet so take plenty of woolen clothing. Cost about 7/-.

Saturday March 7th.
Yealmpton Caves.9 am. bus from Bretonside. Cost about 3/-

Sunday,March 22nd. Working party to P.C.R.C..Leader J.Percival 10.30 bus,No 129,from Bretonside. Cost about 5/6.

Saturday,April 4th.Cattedown Caves. 10 am at Cattedown Corner. Leader T.J.Collings. The meet will deal with a number of open ings which have not yet been fully investigated.

Sunday,April 19th. Pridhamsleigh Cavern. Leaders R.Hooper and R.Bray. 10.30 bus,No 129,from Bretonside. Cost 5/6.

Saturday,May 2nd. Walkham Valley mines. M.Bond is to be invited to lead the meet. 9.05 bus,No 83,from Bretonside.Cost 3/-.

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Subscriptions Will members please note that for the Group to function well it is necessary for subscriptions to be paid promptly.It will be assumed that members who have not paid up by April 1st. no longer wish to continue membership.But,please dont wait till the last moment.
The DSS have asked me to request that all members of the PCG who intend continuing DSS membership should pay the 1964 subscriptions as soon as possible.

Radford
Once again the Committee have had complaints from Mr Phillips about the rather inconsiderate attitude of a few persons who change in his barn.No person must use the barn for changing unless he has asked Mr Phillips beforehand. Mr Phillips is on the telephone so call him fist and the,if permission is granted,used the barn. And please remember not to leave litter in the barn. Thank you. (Plymouth 43298)

Cave Rescue Call-out
The arrangements with the Plymouth Police have now been finalised and in the event of an accident phone :-

Plymouth 61122

State the following information -
1.Name of the cave
2.Geographical position.
3.Nature of accident.
4.Whereabouts in the cave the accident took place.

5.Number of persons in the party and their physical condition.
6.Any special details.
When all this information has been given stay at the telephone for further instructions.

Lecture.

The Editor has been asked to give a lecture to the general public on Thursday ,April 16th at 7.30 at the Plymouth Library and he would appreciate the loan of any colour transparencies of caves in Devon.The titl of the lecture has still to be decided on but it will consist of an account of caves in Devon.

B.S.A. Conference.

Advance notice. The British Speleological Association are holding their annual conference at Settle between Sept 5th and 7th.

Advertisements. Any person wishing to use Newsletters for advertising purposes may do so at a cost of 3d per line.

Addresses The London address of Pete. Hall is 13,Cranfield Gdns.,N.W.6 He would be only too pleased to see any members who are in the area.

The address of our Chairman was given in error in the last Newsletter. The correct address is 3,Maple Grove.Plymmpton and the telephone number is Plympton 3798.

Publication No. 1.

There are a few copies of the first PCG publication for sale price 2/-.The publication deals with the limestone belt of south-west Devon.It includes a pull-out map of the limestone. Copies are obtainable the Editor.

P.C.R.C./Yearbook and Diary.

Dr Sutcliffe of the P.C.R.C, has asked me to publish the following statemnt re the P.C.R.C. advertisement which appeared in the Speloelogical Yearbook and Diary.

"Members of the PCG and DSS who have received copies of the recently published Speleo. Yearbook will probably have been surprised to find under my signature on p.182 an appeal for help at the Pengelly Centre at Easter in which appears a statement that it has no connection with the DSS.The DSS,ofcourse,has three representatives on the Governing Body of the Centre,so that an explanation for this misleading statement becomes necessary.
The information on which this was based was late in being sent by me to the Yearbook editor,so that there was no subsequent opportunity for seeing the proofs,and slight editing of a statement that volunteers would not be building a DSS headquarters resulted in the wording as it finally appeared.
I apologise to DSS members for allowing this mistake to occur and to the Yearbook Editor(who,by the way,made no charge for the advertisement)for the late arrival of the hastily compiled notes on which the statement was based."

Pengelly Cave Research Centre Programme

The following provisional plans for work at the Centre for the next few months has been sent to the Editor by Dr.Sutcliffe.The Centre badly needs help and if any person from the PCG can help at any time his help would be very much appreciated.

March 21st to April 5th. Working party at the quarry,principally to erect fences and to complete the levelling of the car-park and yard.Also to instal the first two windows in the museum.In addition to this there will be a geophysical survey of the top field,a survey of the bone cave and further section-drawing of the bone talus.Insects will be collected for the museum and a selection of indigenous plants planted along the wall.It is hoped that the yard will be cobbled with different rocks in the area.

Whitsun. Two day Guide Naturalists training course for volunteers who will subsequently show parties of visitors around the Centre,probably at Ashburton Secondary Modern School,limited to 20;applications should be sent to Dr. Sutcliffe,British Museum (Nat.Hist),Cromwell Rd.,London SW7. It will be probably over-applied for,in which case it will probably be first come first served.

Further plans are being arranged for the summer period,details later.

Mendip Trip Report.

The Editor was pleased to hear from P.Foster and G.Widgery about their trip to Mendip last month.They visited Goatchurch Cavern,Drunkards Hole,Avelines Hole,Rod's Pot,Reed's Cavern and Sidcot Swallet.They tell me that they had a very enjoyable time.

The Editor would be very pleased to hear from any members who carry out any caving trip outside Devon.

Radford Meet.

Sunday 26th January,1964.
Leader R.Martin,
Deputy,R.Lake,
Others attending P.Harris,S.Harris,V Searle and A.N.Other.

The party assembled at Bretonside Bus Station and caught the 9.20 am bus.Then I proceeded to Radford on my motor cycle and obtained permission to change in the barn.The party arrived and changed,and after waiting for some late comers,who did not arrive,we proceeded to the cave entrance. We descended at 11 am.

A party of Army lads were just going through the Mud Crawl so we took the other route along the Gun Breech and to Jacobs Ladder,were S.Harris took some photographs of the columns.We then passed on through the Connecting Squeeze into the Red Corridor and down into the Main Chamber.

Several members of the party then had their dinner whilst the remainder just rested and watched the Army lads amble through looking for clues to find the way on (A very dangerous passtime.Editor).After about 15 minutes they found what they ahd been looking for and went out through the Red Corridor.

We went into the Inner Series,past the entrance to the Oxbow Chamber, and on to the entrance to Wherry's Squeeze.All the members of the party, with one exception,had done this section before so we did not go through the Squeeze.At this point S Harris took some more photographs.On returning to the Main Chamber,more photographs were taken and we returned to the surface via the Trumpet and Mud Crawl.I locked up the cave,after some difficulty with the lock,at 2.00 p.m..

We returned to the barn, changed and had dinner and returned home in glorious sunshine.

The condition of the cave was fairly dry. There was, however, a great deal of litter in the Main Chamber and the pool was in a filthy condition.

A pair of lady's spectacles, belonging to Miss V. Searle, was lost during the day's caving. Any person who finds them should return them to the Secretary.

R. Martin.

Cattedown Bone Cave

On Saturday, Feb. 15th., the Editor led a party to Cattedown to find the exact spot of the old bone cave. A series of three photographs had turned up during the week in a publication which previously had not been seen. The trip met with immediate sucess but found that the old cave was not in the Fisons quarry but in the quarry of Messrs Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd.. Permission was granted for the party to investigate the area. The east wall of the north chamber of the old cave was found still intact but it had been spoiled by fires which had burned up it. Never-the-less, we now know exactly where the old cave is. But the important discovery of the day was still to come...

The New Bone Cave at Cattedown - Cattedown Bone Rift.

This rift was noticed in the Shell-Mex quarry when the party was looking for the old bone cave. The rift is about 60 ft high and about 2 to 3 ft wide. For much of its height it is blocked with breccia, all possible bone bearing deposit. The initial purpose of the investigation was to see if a new system could be found but it was found that the bottom of the rift went only 15ft before becoming blocked with the breccia. The Editor then decided to examine the floor deposits and it soon became apparent that these were identical to those of the old bone cave. Using a rather heavy hammer, not the best implement, the Editor removed some of the rock and mud from below the breccia layer and out 'popped' the part of a lower jaw ! Bob. Jeffery started work in another part of the rift and soon unearthed bones of some small animal, R. Lake did similarly at a lower layer. P. Price was in charge of sorting all the bones and arranging them. Within a few minutes, the Editor had uncovered an almost complete lower jaw, left side, and then came the upper jaw, but being very fragile, the thinner parts soon powdered. The work was left until after lunch when R. Bray joined the party. At the place if the initial find the front part of the skeleton of a deer like animal was uncovered - parts of antler, 12 large vertebra, a pair of humeri and the pairs of the other bones in the front legs, the metacarpbs and parts of the shoulder blades. Every body was very pleased, not the least Mr Gallaway of Shell-Mex who had kindly given the PCG the necessary permiss-ion.

A letter was sent immediately to Dr Sutcliffe of the B.M. who identifi-ed the remains as the bones of a REINDEER - nowhere in Devon has a complete skeleton of a reindeer been found. These is, ofcourse, no doubt that the bones are fosils.

The Plymouth Museum were informed and have offered the PCG any assist-ance that they can give.

This find, if it turns out as promising as it is hoped, is one of the most important discovery made by the PCG to date.

Editor. T.J. Collings, 27, Queens Rd., Lipson, Plymouth.