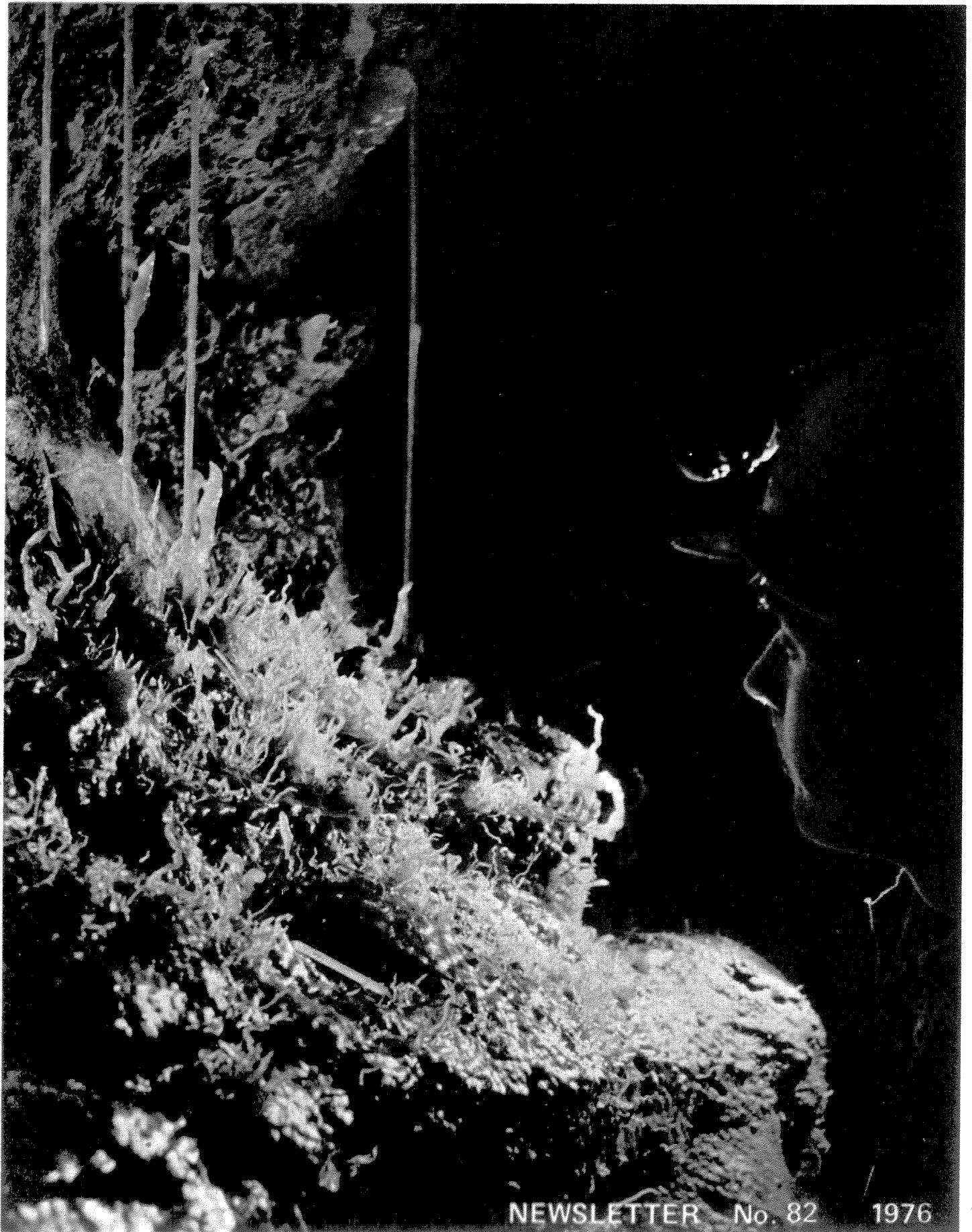


# SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB



NEWSLETTER No. 82 1976

# 30th BIRTHDAY ISSUE

NO. 82

NEWSLETTER

March, 1976

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Cover Photograph - Ogof Ffynnon Ddu by B.T. Jorgensen

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THE BATH STONE MINES

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Bath stone is an oolitic limestone which forms the greater oolite beds in our area of N.W. Wiltshire. The strata form a convenient 'sandwich' as the freestone or building stone lies between the upper and lower ragstone beds which provide stable roof and flooring for mining.

Pillar and stall was the main method of working, the stone being won by hand using plugs and feathers together with mandrills and saws. There is little shattering of the rock by this method and with a natural strata for a ceiling the mines remain safe for exploration even though sections are upwards of 200 years old.

Liz and I visited the Box mine after finding a map in the local library. Naturally our first visit got us inevitably lost in the stall workings as it is difficult to determine which are the roadways leading from district to district and which are just blank headings.

An attempted 'through' trip was made difficult by the occasional roof fall in the passage and owing to several of the entrances marked on the map now being blocked. We eventually got out of the 'back door' entrance via the 'Cathedral', an excellent underground quarry over 100 foot high and wide by 100 yards long. The workings themselves are about 20 foot square though roadways are often larger. In some districts 'deads' are stacked and arched so that a stooping passage is all that remains, but these passages often interconnect with older workings which are worth seeing and full of goodies!

The stone hardens on exposure to the atmosphere and so the initial dressing was done underground at large chambers which served as masons yards. There are several of these yards with their cranes still intact and rusted tools lying about. The crane consists of a beam set into the roof and floor on which pivots an arm worked through a geared winch. Haulage was by pony and the occasional stone water tank has usually got a horsetrough nearby.

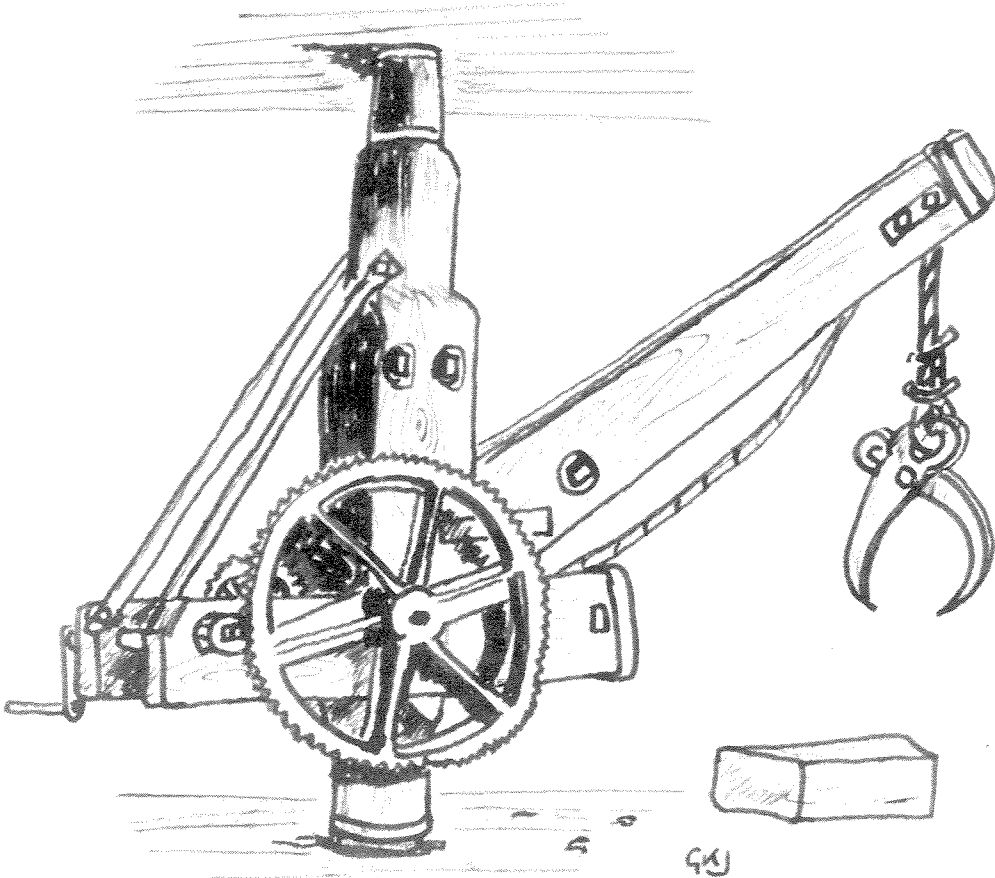
Lighting seems to have been by carbide in the Box mine - there are a few rusted remains and a spent carbide dump, but in the older mines we have visited subsequently we have found oil lamps and candle ends. Box itself has about 60 miles of passage and the other large mine in the area, Bathford, has about 20 miles, though there is no map to confirm this. Other mines visited were very much smaller, though there are some large mines still in use, one as a mushroom mine (!) and others used by the armed forces for storage etc.

At one of these mines converted for storage and light industry manufacture I am told it is possible to enter via an air shaft (about 100 foot). This of course would be illegal but I am sure that once

down one would find little more than an air filtration plant, storage areas and large conveyor belts now seemingly un-used. Dimensions of this part of the mine would probably be the same as other stone mines in the area except for a concrete skim on floors and walls and electric lighting.

There are very few shafts used in Bath stone mining as entry is by drift or adit. The dip is seldom over  $5^{\circ}$  so the majority of workings are level and little equipment is needed to explore. Spare lights are necessary as distances involved make trips long. By the way - if you go, beware of bats, nearly all these mines have large colonies of them!

GARY JONES



CRANE - BOX MINE

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT POTTER'S CAVE, CALDEY ISLAND.

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Potter's Cave was first excavated in 1950-53 and a report published in the 1955 'Archaeologia Cambrensis' by Lacaille and Grimes. A Bronze Age and Late Mesolithic occupation of the cave was proved, but the human bones found were not described in detail. In 1961 the same authors published Part 2 of their report and filled the period 'gaps' by proving an early Neolithic and a Romano-British occupation. Excavation was stopped due to the difficulties of removing hard stalagmite and the constrictions in the entrance passage. However in April 1973 work was resumed and I was able to assist the chief excavator, Brother James van Nederveelde, using judiciously placed charges of gelignite; this was reported in Newsletter No. 77, September 1974. In October 1975 I spent a complete week at the excavations and the following is a summary of the finds made, with a full identification of the human bones found.

The plan shown below was prepared with a metre rod graduated in decimetres; angles are approximate, and stalagmite is that remaining on the day of survey (in Middle Chamber, for example) the stalagmite once covered the floor from the south wall to the north wall).

Excavation in the stalagmite of the east passage from Chamber 2 revealed the following bones of Bos species:

- Right maxilla fragment with 2 premolars and 2 molars;
- Left scapula, proximal portion;
- Left humerus, distal end;
- Left femur, fragment of proximal end;
- Tibia fragment, possibly Bos;
- Left and right astragalus, forming a pair;
- Right astragalus, from a small animal;
- Right calcaneus, 2 specimens, one average and one small size.

Sheep or goat were represented by a right mandible with 2 teeth, metacarpal and metatarsal bones and other bones in fragmentary condition, together with much charcoal. In this stalagmite during the previous July Brother James had found fragments of a Beaker, identified by Dr. H.N. Savory of the National Museum of Wales as a Copper Age (ca. Early Bronze Age), 2,000 - 1,800 B.C. Beaker showing some local development from the original 'Bell Beaker' tradition of S.W. Europe. The fragments had charcoal stains on the inside. The Bos bones are from 2 oxen differing considerably in size, and are taken from various parts of the carcasses. They may represent meal remains, but if so, it must have been a very large meal. Was the Beaker used in its preparation, or is the whole assemblage some sort of offering left in the cave?

Excavations during September at the N.W. corner of Middle Chamber before my arrival had revealed a number of human bones. I was able to identify these (see Appendix 1) before joining in any new excavations. Bones of the left and right foot were represented probably from one individual. Some of the phalanges could have been from a hand. The bones and teeth were of a good size and suggested a strong, fully-adult

male, but the sexing is not positive as certain critical bones are missing.

The work was then transferred to the eastern end of the chamber where interesting deposits seemed to run under the south wall and a constriction prevented easy access to Chamber 3. Masses of solid rock were removed with gelignite and excavation carried into a layer of reddish-brown sand which became clayey with depth and rested on the stalagmite. Large quantities of animal bones were found in 2 days together with more human bones. The animals comprised mainly sheep or goat, pig and rabbit or hare. They were obviously hacked meal remains and some showed the marks of later biting by rodents. Mixed with them were human bones and a full identification list is given in Appendix 2. It will be seen that bones of the right and left foot are represented, together with other scattered human bones right up to the head. The bones are from an individual of lighter build than the person at the other end of the chamber. Clearly 2 persons were interred in Middle Chamber.

Since these bones were above the stalagmite layer, it was certain that they were younger than Bronze Age. Confirmatory evidence of this dating was later obtained in the form of pottery fragments, twisted copper wire (or metal rich in copper) and 2 iron 'nails'. The pottery was in 3 pieces 2 of which fitted together to form an almost flat sherd 9 cm long. The sherd bore no markings, but it was very black with charcoal on the inside. The curvature in fact amounted to no more than a depression of some 3 mm along its whole length. The thickness was 4 to 5 mm and the pottery was generally buff in colour and smooth-surfaced without glaze. A flat dish of Romano-British age is suggested. The copper wire seemed to be a pair of hinges, each 4 cm long and formed by twisting together 8 cm - long pieces of wire. Their precise use is unknown but they might have served as hinges for a stiff, leather container.

During the course of the week's excavations photographs were taken on colourslide and monochrome film of bones in situ, stratification, the ceramic and other artefacts, and the human bones, using electronic flash, daylight, and various combinations with the aid of 2 cameras. A note is appended (Appendix 3) on the use of explosives.

There was no time to excavate deeper than the Bronze Age levels on this occasion, but in the last 2 years Potter's Cave has yielded Neolithic pottery and polished, broken flint axe, Upper Palaeolithic flint tools, bones or teeth of horse and hyena, and a scapula of Woolly Rhinoceros worked into a scraping tool, an artefact of great rarity in Britain. There are vast deposits left in the cave and it is intended to continue excavations in the coming years.

#### APPENDIX 1 Human bones excavated September 1975, NW corner, Middle Chamber

Premolar, possibly maxillary, slight fork in root, some concave wear;  
Canine, but crown so worn that it might be a strong incisor;  
Left calcaneus, length 87 mm;  
Left tarsal bone, adjacent to Mt I, length 33 mm between artic. faces;  
Tarsal bone, side undetermined, length 23 mm;

Left Mt I, 68 mm, a strong bone;  
Left Mt II  
Left Mt III  
Left Mt IV  
Left Mt V

Right Mt IV  
Right Mt V.

Phalange, length 39 mm, width 22 mm, rather squat;

Phalange, length 48 mm, width 19 mm, slender;

6 Phalanges of smaller size, one with proximal end damaged;

Phalange, proximal half only, size similar to the 48 mm one above.

Note that 6 of these phalanges are quite yellow in colour and obviously come from the sand layer; the other 3 are browner with a grey tinge.

APPENDIX II Human bones excavated 22 October 1975, Chambr. 3 Entrance

Left mandible fragment with M3 intact and no sign of wear. Possibly a young adult;

Cervical vertebra;

Thoracal vertebra;

3 Lumbar vertebrae, one damaged;

Vertebra fragment, possibly lumbar;

Rib fragments, lengths 75 and 64 mm, also 2 other fragments;

Tibiae, left and right distal end fragments;

Fibula, proximal end in 2 fragments 14.8 cm long, side undetermined;

Left astragalus, fragment;

Right Mt I

Left Mt V

} - Both smaller than the equivalent bones in Appendix 1

Metatarsus fragment, possibly III left, but distal end missing;

4 Phalanges 1;

Phalange 2;

Nail bone, length 19.5 mm.

APPENDIX III Use of explosives in cave archaeology and the treatment of bone.

A note is necessary here to explain the use of explosives in the excavation. The floors of archaeological caves are often covered over with a hard layer of stalagmite, and this forms a protective layer for the deposits underneath. The stalagmite can itself be buried by up to 2 ft. of 'cave earth' for the main period of stalagmite growth had ended by about 2,000 B.C. In Potter's cave the stalagmite was up to 1½ ft. in thickness, practically as hard as limestone, and could not be broken up manually as there was no room to wield a sledgehammer. There were also constrictions in the passage which needed widening to improve access, because several tons of sand, rocks and clay had to be carried outside.

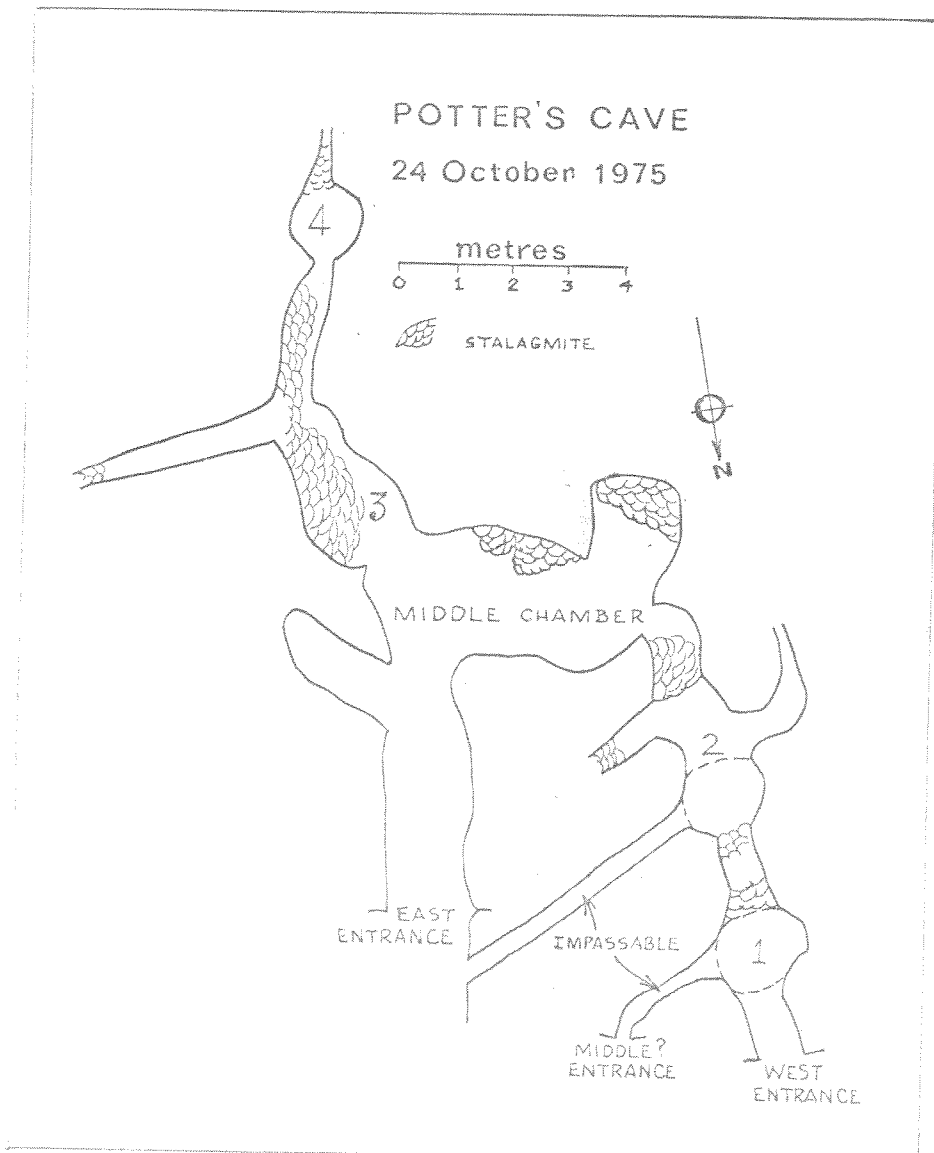
One reads with horror of the use of explosives in cave excavations of the last century. The material used then, however, was mainly gunpowder, perhaps mixed with amatol. These substances explode in a manner not easy to control and require the prior drilling of holes in rock or stalagmite. The modern 'plastic' gelignite is reliable, no holes need to be drilled, and the blast wave has a predictable vector. A wide experience is necessary before it can be used on stalagmite and one must know the alignment of the 'planes of crystallization' in the flowstone, and have some idea of the substrata. It is important not to use too much as the stalagmite and everything in it will be pulverized. With the correct amount and application the planes will become separated, the cracked blocks can be prised apart, and the artefacts or bones recovered undamaged after gentle blows with a small hammer.



Bones in stalagmite are usually very hard and in such good condition that they need only be air-dried and varnished before storage. Acid dipping is not recommended to detach bones from stalagmite as the bone becomes soft and shrinks, also the marrow tends to dissolve. I have tried hydrochloric acid and the weaker acetic acid, and find that a second dip in strong ammonia solution is necessary to harden the bone. The best varnish seems to be the woodworkers 'Ronseal' as it soaks into the bone, strengthens it, and gives a pleasing shiny finish from which dust is later easily removed. Bones from air spaces such as those under boulders, or from cavities under stalagmite floors, are usually soft and friable. Great care is required in washing and drying them. 'Ronseal' is however very effective in preserving even these, but 2 or more coats may be necessary. Antlers may be treated in the same way as bones, but allow plenty of varnish to soak into the interior, as this can be largely hollow and may cause disintegration during storage.

It goes without saying that any bone destined for radiocarbon dating is not to be treated with anything. Even natural stalagmite is suspect in such a bone and I would select only bones from clay for this test.

M. DAVIES.



CAVE RESCUE TELEPHONES

The rescue phones have been modified and overhauled. All the rescue teams in the S. Wales area have converted to this system and are compatible.

There are three phones in the rescue trailer each in its own 'ammo' box. Two of the phones are for underground and are in YELLOW boxes. The surface phone is in a RED box. Each box has tools, tape, notebook, pencil and spare connectors.

Judging by the small turnouts at rescue practices I think it would be wise to describe the circuit and operation of the system.

The phones are wired in series. There is no provision for ringing as this has always seemed to cause problems. It is intended that each station is manned for the duration of the rescue but if a phone has to be left then a loud whistle into the mouthpiece will attract attention. The handsets have been replaced by a combined ear/microphone on a wire head band which is worn under the helmet. The surface phone also has an extra earphone (painted WHITE) for a secretary. This leaves the controller free but enables a record to be kept.

CONNECTIONS

Both the surface and underground boxes have the headsets permanently wired and the phone line is connected directly to the terminals marked 'LINE'. The surface phone has a flying lead which is connected to a cell. Any cell may be used and there is no polarity problem. If the speech is distorted too much power may be the cause. 1½ volts has proved sufficient for 1 km of line. Another cause of distortion is talking too loud or too directly into the voice tube.

The second underground phone may be used as an intermediate station. The twin line is separated for about 6" and a section of each is stripped for about 1". The bared sections are staggered for this ensures easy re-insulation. The line is then connected directly to the LINE terminals. The intermediate station may be used to set up a traffic flow system in places like the long crawl or Dim Dwr, where it is difficult to pass when carrying gear. Bob Hall, Pete Cardy or myself would be happy to show anybody the system in operation.

B. JOPLING.

\* \* \* \* \*

N.B.

Pete Francis has asked for the following amendments to be noted on his article 'Easter '75 in Ireland', Newsletter No. 81 1975.

The extension in Noon's Hole was found by Paddy O'Reilly, Pete Lord and Jeff Phillips.

The FENNIAN TERROR BYPASS in TALLYHONA was found by Hywel Ball and Gareth Davies.

Apologies to all.

## THE SOUTH WALES CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

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### 1. Representation

The S.W.C.R.O. holds an A.G.M. at which member clubs (about 20 at present) may make their views known. An Executive of 8 cavers is elected at this meeting.

### 2. Decisions

Month by month decisions are made by the Executive following the wishes of the A.G.M. and in consultation with the Police who are represented on the Executive. The Executive is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the teams and for making arrangements for callout with the Police.

### 3. Callout

The first call should be through the Police who will contact one of ten wardens who will then make the callout and organise the Rescue (or find another organiser). The Police just hold a list of ten names. The detailed lists are held by the wardens.

### 4. Rescue Teams

For the purposes of owning equipment, training etc. clubs active in cave rescue join teams which are sub-units of the organisation. There are two teams at present: The Gwent Team and the West Breconshire Team (S.W.C.C. is part of the latter). Each team provides four Executive members and five wardens. Team tackle officers liaise to ensure compatible equipment.

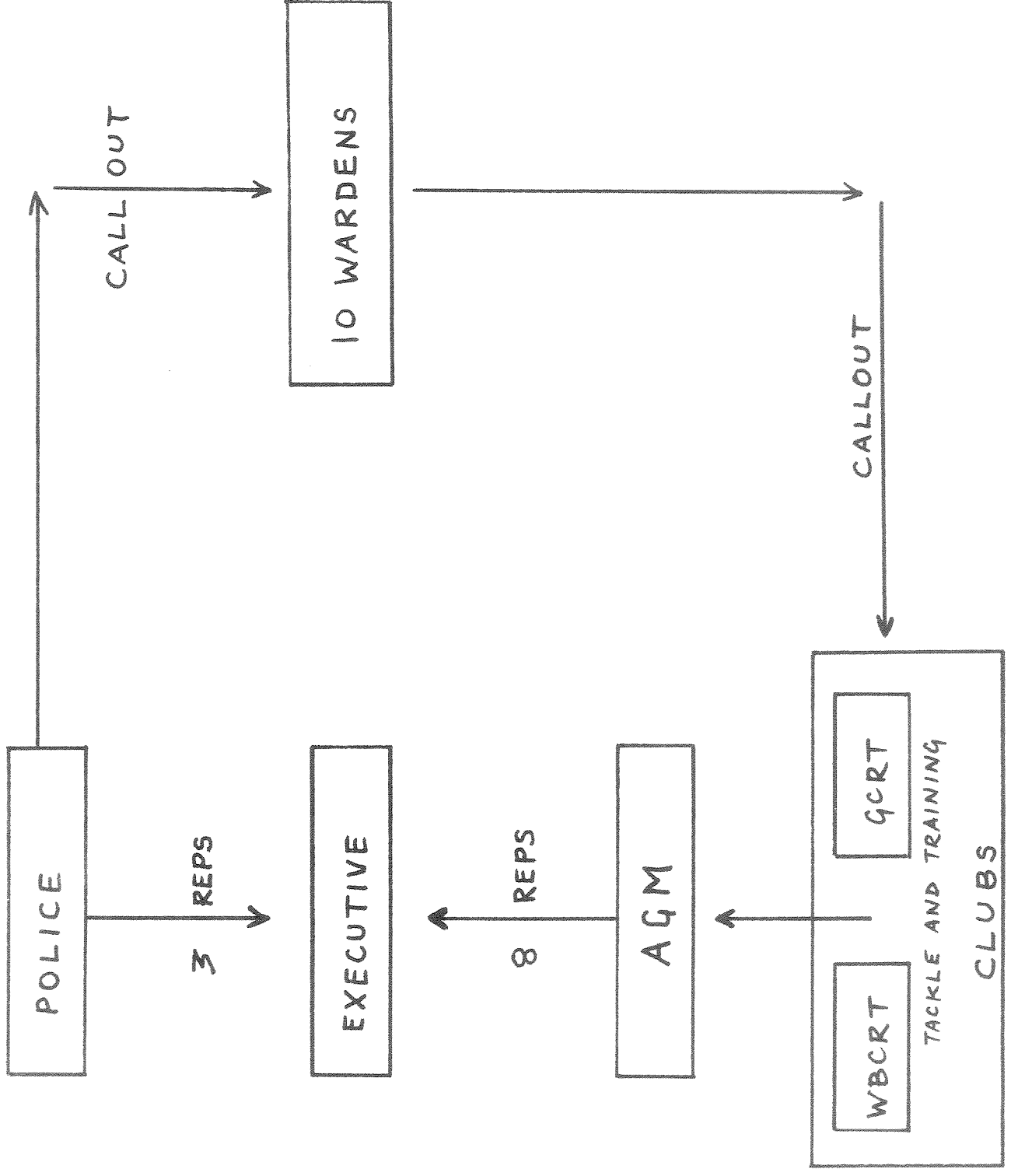
### 5. Summary

The organisation of S.W.C.R.O. is of two types:

- a) Emergency organisation by Wardens;
- b) Democratic representation, planning and liaison by the A.G.M. and the Executive.

/ .....

S.W.C.R.O.



PLANNING AND LIASON

EMERGENCY

6. Composition of Teams

West Breconshire Cave Rescue Team: S.W.C.C.  
 Swindon S.S.  
 E.G.O.N.S.  
 Westminster S.G.

Gwent Cave Rescue Team: Cwmbran C.C.  
 Brynmawr C.C.  
 Hereford C.C.  
 Chelsea S.S.  
 Haywell E.G.  
 Gagendor C.G.  
 Croydon C.C.

BOB. HALL.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLAUSTROPHOBIA IN CAVES

Besides the examples given by Alan Ashwell in N.L. 81 I can give two others. One was a student, whom I knew particularly well, as we had many interests in common. He was a thin, athletic type. I suggested some caving and we went to G.B. Cavern. As soon as he saw the entrance, which was a rather narrow rift below a grating, he felt faint and broke out into a cold sweat, breathing rather rapidly. So we called the trip off. I thought about it for a bit and suggested that we tried Goatchurch Cavern, where the entrance is large. I thought that if he got used to the cave as he went along, he might not get a recurrence of the claustrophobia. All went well until we reached the Drainpipe, when the attack hit him again. So we went out of the cave and he did not try any more.

The other case was of a caver who succeeded in overcoming his disability and told me how he did it. This was Alan Sunall, who used to assist Dennis Warburton with his surveys, particularly in Eastwater Cavern. When he reached a narrow place and began to feel faint, cold and sweaty, he would be on his back and relax completely for a few minutes. Then he would get up suddenly and go through the opening before the attack had time to recur. Once on the far side of it he was all right.

OLIVER C. LLOYD.

\* \* \* \* \*



DAN YR OGOF by CLIVE WESTLAKE

OFFICERS REPORTS 1975-6

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 1976 A.G.M. marks the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the South Wales Caving Club, but regrettably the past year has shown little improvement in the poor level of activity and spirit which has prevailed amongst many members of late and there have been no major discoveries. However, a trip to the Gouffre Berger involving many S.W.C.C. members was a success.

The Committee has functioned well and meetings have been well attended, although depleted in the latter months following the resignation in December of Bob Wynd from the post of Warden. The Committee chose to leave this post vacant until the A.G.M. and Peter Francis has taken interim responsibility for the provision of essential supplies to the H.Q.

We have welcomed eight new members to the Club to date, in the main experienced cavers. It is unfortunate that we have not had equal success in attracting the inexperienced. A large number of enquiries have been received from people keen to take up caving and they have been invited along to Penwylt to join in with Club activities; precious few of these have actually turned up and, as far as I know, none of these few have lasted beyond one visit! What is wrong? Does the fault lie with us, or with them?

By way of contrast, the demand for accommodation from other clubs has increased to the extent that, in January, the HQ was booked up five months ahead. At the same time the first weekends of each month which were reserved for members and personal guests were hardly used, there frequently being fewer than half a dozen people at the Club. The Committee thus decided that the 'Members only' weekends would be abolished (except in the case of Bank Holiday weekends) in the interests of efficient utilisation of our facilities.

The past year has seen the declaration of a large part of OFD II-III as a National Nature Reserve and the Club is liaising very closely with the Nature Conservancy Council in the setting up and administration of management policy for the Reserve. The management is to be in the hands of a Committee consisting of two S.W.C.C. representatives (one of whom will be Permit Secretary), the Conservation Officer, a Cambrian Caving Council Representative, a South Wales C.R.O. representative, a B.C.R.A. representative and Nature Conservancy representatives. John Harvey is to be Permit Secretary and I am Secretary to the Management Committee. In addition there are three Part-Time Wardens and at the moment these are all S.W.C.C. members, namely, Pete Cardy, Peter Harvey, and Brian Jorgensen, who will have responsibilities for on-site administration of management policy. John Barrows and Lyn Lewis will be Honorary Wardens.

I have now been Secretary of the Club for two years and my enthusiasm for the job is no longer sufficient to enable me to perform the task as well as I would like. I therefore will not be standing for re-election at the A.G.M. although I would still be prepared to serve on the Committee. I would like to thank all those who have helped me during the past two years, particularly John Harvey my assistant secretary, and Bob Hall who took over News-sheet production and the addressing of envelopes.

J.J. ROWLAND.

\* \* \* \* \*

HON. CAVE RESCUE OFFICERS REPORT - 1975/6

1. Incidents

There have been no serious incidents this year (up to 31 January 1976) but on several occasions searches for overdue parties have been necessary. Several attempts to recover the body of Paul Esser from Porth yr Ogof have been organised by the Gwent C.R.T., the S.W.C.C. have provided some help with this.

2. Practices

Practices have been held in Tunnel Cave and Dan yr Ogof in association with Swindon S.S., E.G.O.N.S. and the W.S.G. and in Porth yr Ogof in association with the Gwent Team. Generally the S.W.C.C. support has been fair but it is always the same faces who turn up.

3. Equipment

There have been continuing improvements in our equipment stocks and the small packs to be carried on searches are particularly to be noted, as this is our most common callout. Some work has been done on the Land Rover which should soon be mobile. This is a priority job as very few Land Rovers are seen at the Club these days.

Allied Polymers who make lilos have provided us with a new floating stretcher and I was able to obtain a further one for the Gwent Team. Considerable improvements have been made to the telephone sets. Bill Clarke has made us a new stretcher.

4. 'Fixed Aids'

The fixed telephone line in Dan yr Ogof has been checked and re-layed through the Longer Crawl to Gerrard Platten Hall. Further additions and improvements to the dump in Boulder Chamber have also been made.

5. The South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation

Shortly after I became the Hon. Rescue Officer negotiations were completed for the setting up of the new S.W.C.R.O. which is a formally constituted body composed of many Cambrian Clubs. I am currently the Secretary of this organisation and have represented Rescue at Cambrian C.C. meetings, National Cave Rescue Council



meetings and on the O.F.D. Management Committee. The S.W.C.R.O. were hosts to the National Cave Rescue Conference 1976 in which the S.W.C.C. played an active part.

6. Thanks

To: Brian Jopling, Pete Cardy, Bill Clarke, John Harvey, Frank Baguley, Glyn Jones and many others.

BOB HALL.

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EDITOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin my report by extending my thanks to all those members who have contributed items to the Newsletter over the past year. Unfortunately these contributors are few in number and more often than not the same few, in fact they almost form a S.W.C.C. Writers Circle!

If you are suffering from over-exposure (readers hypothermia) to articles by members X, Y and Z, please remember that articles do not write themselves!!

When I became Editor in 1973 I determined that whatever else happened I, personally, was not going to write articles in order to ensure an edition of the Newsletter. I am glad to say that although we came close to it on several occasions this has not happened, although, as you may have noticed, I have found it necessary to supply photographs on frequent occasions. If you have any good caving photographs why not share them with the other members by letting the Editor publish them.

I have served the Club as Editor for the past three years, during which time there have been one or two minor changes in the make up of the Newsletter and, with the publication of Newsletter number 81, a decision to publish future Newsletters in the standard A4 format. I hope that during my time as Editor I have succeeded in providing a degree of balance and interest in the type of articles published and that any toes which I may have trod on are now healed. I shall not be standing for re-election at the A.G.M., with luck I shall be able to see something of the other side of the pen.

I wish the new Editor every success and I would like to conclude by mentioning that, thanks to the efforts of Pete Francis, we hope to publish an index to Newsletters numbered 1-80 (1952 - 75) in the near future and finally, to give my annual thanks to Alan Jackson for doing the printing.

B.T. JORGENSEN  
Editor (Ret'd)

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EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Whilst preparing my report for 1975/76 I read last year's Officers Reports and most told of a general decline in Club activities. This lack of enthusiasm and interest was carried over into this year. This has been reflected in a rather low demand for tackle. Nevertheless, there has been a small band of stalwarts who have made good use of both general tackle and Expedition tackle. This was used in the main for attempts on long shafts in the Shropshire Lead Mining district. A small amount of tackle also went with Club members to the Gouffre Berger.

Most members will by now know that the keys for upstairs tackle are now no longer kept on the Duty Officer's ring. This action was taken, somewhat reluctantly, after the loss of several Nife Cells and other pieces of equipment. The keys are now available from myself, Brian Jopling and Mary Galpin. Since this has been carried out there have been no further losses and the general tidiness of the stores is much better.

Whilst on the subject of tidiness, the Workshop had a good going over by Bob Hall and Rod Stewart. This gave us a two-fold benefit, improved storage space and more working space. People seem to have responded to this by keeping it tidier. There has also been some other changes in the Workshop. All the charging facilities are now situated under the staircase - whether this is a permanent change we are not certain yet. This move was carried out to facilitate the building of the Ladies Showers.

Having got round to the subject of Ladies Showers, I would like to thank the potential users for being forthcoming in helping to build the Club's 1,000 ft. of new ladder. Although at the time of writing this report there has not been any finished, perhaps some of the lads would like to get their fingers out and complete a few hundred feet.

There has been several other construction jobs carried out this year. Rod Stewart carried out a complete overhaul and modification to the Lead Acid Charger and Sam Moore and Bob Hall made a new Lead Acid Rack. This is not in use yet as we are waiting for new electrics. Tunnel Top was given a fact lift and made safe again. For those who have managed to walk to Top Entrance this year, they will have noticed a moderate civil engineering job has been carried out. This started out as the fixing of a new gate but give Bob Hall a couple of cement blocks and a bucket of cement and he'll play for hours! Anyway we now have a rather fine set of steps leading down to the gate.

Although we seem to have been suffering a lull in Club activities this has not stopped other Clubs visiting the caves in which we keep fixed aids. Several have had to be repaired and some have had to be completely replaced. One which caused considerable trouble this year was Maypole Inlet ladder, and I

hope that by the time of the A.G.M. this particular problem will have been solved.

In winding up I would like to thank Brian Jopling, who has been a willing and able assistant and who has made my job much easier . I would like to extend my thanks to everybody who helped out last year, as without the help of Club members it would be a much harder task. I hope that next year will see an upsurge in Club activities and make us all work harder particularly at caving, after all that is what it is all about.

Cheers.

PETE CARDY.

\* \* \* \* \*

RECORD OFFICER'S REPORT

There has been very little usage of the Club records over the past year. It may be, that over the years of its existence the usage of the records has been consistently low because they have usually been inconveniently located.

With these thoughts in mind, I have decided to make the housing of the records at Penwyllt a top priority. Work has started on the conversion of the downstairs rear room of number 10 cottage and, given the help of some keen volunteers, the year 1976/77 should see the records housed at the H.Q.

During the year the usual quota of British and foreign publications have been purchased or exchanged. We have also improved our collection of guides to various caving areas.

With the approval of the A.G.M., I should like to continue in office for another year, in order to carry through the project of providing a Club library at the Penwyllt H.Q.

K. MADDOCKS.

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