

Circular to Members - September 1959

Sessional Meetings

The programme is at present not complete, but will include tutorials on the Prehistory of Western Europe and lectures on archaeology and caving. In the Spring Term there will be a film evening, when films on archaeology and caving will be shown.

The meetings will all be on Mondays at 8.15 p.m. either in our own rooms or in the new Geography Lecture Theatre (a few yards up University Road from our own rooms).

The dates are: October 12th and 19th,
November 2nd, 16th and 30th,
December 7th and 14th.

1960: January 18th and 31st,
February 14th (Films),
March 6th - A.G.M. and Presidential Address.

Archaeology

At Priddy Circles, extensive excavations at the centre of the South Circle have so far yielded nothing. No structural features of any kind have been found, nor any other finds. At the West side of the entrance two pits have been found, one of which is probably due to mining; the other is later than the original structure, but otherwise undateable. Structural details similar to those on the East side of the entrance have been found, but again there is a complete absence of any kind of dateable object.

Work has been suspended at Gough's Old Cave for the Summer months, because of impossible traffic conditions at Cheddar over the week-ends.

Caving

A party of 14 members again went to Co. Clare, and were favoured by very low water in the caves for most of the time. This made survey work relatively easy and greatly helped in the exploration of about 2 miles of new passage. This includes discoveries in Pollnagollum ("Sump Gallery" opening off Cotten's Gallery), Pollcakercloggaun West 1 and St. Catherine's 1. About $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles of cave were surveyed, of which the biggest single item was Cullaun III. It took a total of 170 man-hours to survey and has been shown to be nearly 2 miles long.

Negotiations with Bristol Water Works, the new owners of G.B. cave, about control of access to the cave, have not proceeded altogether favourably for the Society.

Proceedings

Printing of Proceedings has been delayed by the recent strike, and it will probably not be ready until near the end of the year. The terms of settlement of the strike are likely to lead to a considerable rise in the cost of this and future issues.

Articles for the next issue (Vol. 9, No. 1) should reach the editors before December 31st, 1959.

Field Headquarters

A small breeze block building for drying caving cloths is being built at the back of the hut. It has not yet been officially named, but a medical member has suggested calling it "The Grandchild". Resiting of the wind generator has enabled there to be sufficient electricity for lighting purposes throughout the Summer.

Equipment

Recently two caving ladders have been made by the crimping method. This is a quick and easy method to use and the ladders have, so far, proved entirely satisfactory in use.

D. G. MEAD

Hon. Secretary.