

15th December, 1963.

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS

The Committee decided at a recent meeting to alter somewhat the Format of the Circular; an improvement, we hope.

Forthcoming events.

EIRE 1964

The official dates are :- Leave Bristol July 2nd.
Return to Bristol July 18th or 21st.

It is hoped that extensions will be added at either end, this will enable extensive (and intensive) weather measurements to be made over a period of a month, this will make the date limits :-

Leave Bristol June 25th.
Return Bristol July 28th.

If anyone is interested please can they let the President know as soon as possible, i.e. not later than Jan. 15th 1964. Please also state period of stay (accommodation being limited). Also say what Transport you are bringing, if any.

I a the following Caves are to be explored and surveyed. Cullaun Zero; Cahir Cloggaun West-one; Caves of Kilcorney; Aran View; -- These to be finished off. Attempts are to be made on Swallet C 6a.; photographs of Branch Passage of P.G.; Roof Passages; Further parts of the Fergus river Cave; a survey of Caves in the area of Poulacapple. Risings along the Coast are to be examined with reference to Place names. Besides all this much Fluorscein testing still remains to be done.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

This will be at the same time and place as usual. Could interested parties please send names and what they will be bringing with them? No snow please.

SESSIONAL MEETINGS — a reminder.

Jan. 13th. Film Evening.
Jan. 27th. The Antiquities of Bath, by Mr. John Gardner, M.A., F.S.A.
Feb. 17th. The Pyrennees Expedition, U.B.S.S., Mr. F. H. Nicholson, B.Sc.
Mar. 2nd. The Annual General Meeting, Presidential Address :
Danish Archaeology.

INFORMAL TALKS

Entitled "Archaeology for beginners". All are welcome. They will take place on Thursday at 8.15., on Jan. 23rd, Jan. 30th, Feb. 6th. They will be given by the President.

EXCURSIONS

The following have been proposed :-

1. South Wales. Week-end of February 15th, 1964. Stay at the South Wales Caving Club H.Q. at Penwyllt. Have a look at Ogof Ffynnon Dhu on Sunday morning. Please let the Hon. Treasurer know if you would like to come. Further details can be worked out when we know who is coming and at what time they want to get there. Even a short week-end is worth while.

2. Yorkshire, At Easter 1964. The party is booked for the Marston Arms at Thornton in Lonsdale near Ingleton. Provisional Program would be :-

Thursday, March 26th, part of party arrives with tackle.
Friday (Good), rest of party arrives.
Friday and Saturday 27th and 28th, exploration of Lost John's Cave on Leck Fell. (This is rather a special favour in the Society's opinion).
Nine ladder pitches and 400 ft. of ladder. Party needs to be 10 - 12 strong. This is reputedly one of the finest Caves in Yorkshire. It is dry except the last pitch and the master cave.
Easter Sunday, "Surface work".
Easter Monday, Caving; afternoon return home.

Please let the Hon. Treasurer know soon if you are interested. Firm bookings do not need to be made before the end of January. Even after that some scratchings or additions may be made.

Prices are likely to be much as usual, i.e. in the order of 25/- bed and breakfast; 7/6 to 10/- Dinner, and 2/6 for packed Lunches. Camping sites are available. Accommodation for wives and children can be arranged.

The excursions to South Wales in November and Plymouth in December 1963 were unfortunately cancelled because of the Hon. Treasurer's illness.

Past events

ILLNESS

Dr. O. C. Lloyd has recently been in hospital with a serious illness, which succeeded in putting him flat on his back, for a number of weeks. At present he is causing great surprise by caving again (even to the Sump in Swildon's). This shows the speed of his recovery, when many others would be 'taking it easy' until after the New Year.

ROOMS

The University has kindly given us the use of the old Anatomy Tank room, to provide further workroom facilities. This will enable us to put most of the material filling the corridors into the cellar; the spare space will be used for extra museum facilities. The cellar will be used for preparing and examination of specimens.

When the Tank Room will be available for use is not known yet (at the moment rather revolting liquors are still occupying the Tanks).

Members are asked to keep their eyes open for bargains in the way of large glass fronted bookcases max. height 9 ft., and for suitable showcases as may be available when shops change hands. The Society will be willing to pay for such bargains. These will go in the corridor.

M. R. O.

A copy of the Caving code should be found with every circular.

LIBRARY

4 new exchanges have been started with foreign speleo clubs.

LAMB LEER IN THE 17th CENTURY

This paper appeared in Proceedings U.B.S.S. Vol. 9, No. 3, and has now been reprinted in "The British Caver" and marked 'Printed with the permission of the U.B.S.S.' Permission in fact was not given either by the Society or by the Author — Lt.-Cdr. T. R. Shaw.

Contributions

It is hoped to enlarge the following section of the Circular, with Contributions from Members whom feel they have something to say. Any one with something interesting should send it to the President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, or any Student member who will pass it on. Such Items will carry in general the Initials of the writer.

Frank Nicholson Esq., would like it to be known that he was nowhere near Dow Cave a few weeks ago when some Cambridge Cavers were rescued.

I. J. S.

Glasgow Spelaeological Society. (This Society has now started with the help of John Worley. Purposes :- To study Caverns natural or otherwise within 100 miles of Glasgow. They have already a President and Chairman both of whom are experienced, they have few experienced cavers other than these however.) "My chief concern," he writes "is safety. While active cavers remain in the dozens accidents are bound to be few, but in several years time I hate to think. No member of U.B.S.S. would think of entering some of the mines which are regularly visited, and I have noted the collapse of about 50 tons of roof in one mine since I have been in Scotland. None of these workings, mainly lead and limestone, have been touched for 150 years, and the roof supports have crumbled like a pile of sand. Spares bags are not carried, and very often people share lamps. On the other hand someone is always left at the entrance. I think a code of practice will have to be drawn up.

We are in the process of buying a property in the Ghost Town of Leadhills as a field H.Q. This is about 40 miles south of Glasgow and in a fantastic area for old lead workings at an altitude of about 2000 ft. cold in winter. The mines there appear to be similar in nature to the man made part of Lamb Leer, and not too dissimilar from solution caves. The immediate task is location and survey of the mines for historical purposes, since nothing whatever is known about most of them. I hope in the Summer, when surface work becomes possible with the aid of an umbrella, some digging out of local shake-holes will be undertaken."

Plymouth Caves. It is not generally known that there are some interesting caves in the Devonian Limestone in and around the City of Plymouth. I visited some of these as a guest of the Plymouth Caving Group and I think that they are well worth studying by members of our Society. I would like to arrange an

excursion early in the Summer Term, 1964, camping at the Caves. As it will not be possible to give very much advance notice of the date, since the next Circular to Members is due in April 1964, I would be glad if Members could write to the Hon. Treasurer, if they are interested in coming, so that he can give them full details of the arrangements in good time.

O. C. L.

The Pearly Mine. On the second Sunday of November a few members went to this Mine at Sandford. This has a nearly vertical rift needing about 60 feet of ladder; the ladder being belayed onto some nearby hazel trees. About 25 feet down there is a small gallery heading N-W. This is only about 12 feet long. At the bottom of the passable part of the rift, one enters into another gallery, which extends for about 200 feet in either direction. Underneath the passable part of the rift there is a continuation which is said to go down for a further 20 feet. At present this is mostly filled with old pieces of timber, dead Sheep (positively Irish), and mud. These, could be removed with not very much difficulty, which would perhaps open up the more interesting part of the mine. Anyone interested?

J. P. C.

J. J. P. CLOKIE.

Hon. Sec.