

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SECRETARIES' LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Member,

20.10.76

Sessional Meetings 1976 - 77

The following Sessional Meetings are being arranged to take place in the Main Geography Lecture Theatre at 8 pm. on the following Mondays:

November 29th 1976

Film Show

January 31st 1977

David Brook: New Guinea Expedition
1975

March 14th 1977

A.G.M. Jim Hay on Otter Hole

May 2nd 1977

To be decided.

The Paul Esser Memorial Lecture will be given on Wednesday February 3rd 1977 at 8.15 pm. in the Arthur Tyndall Lecture Theatre in the Dept. of Physics, by Mr. David Bellamy on the subject of "20,000 mm. under the Central Indian Ocean." The Vice-Chancellor will take the chair.

The Film Show on November 29th will follow an Extraordinary General Meeting convened under Rule 13 of the Constitution for the purpose of amending the Constitution in respect of subscriptions. The following amendments are proposed by the Committee:

Rule 6 (b) delete "no subscription" and substitute "a subscription of £3 a year and shall be entitled to receive one copy of the Proceedings of the Society when published without further charge."

Rule 6 (c) delete 30/- and substitute £3.

Rule 6 (d) delete 40/- and substitute £3.

Note: the effect of these amendments will be to leave the Student Members paying no subscription other than the compulsory Union Levy, while all other categories of members, except Honorary, will pay £3. a year.

Centenary Celebrations

The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society is the oldest University caving society in Britain if not in the world. It was founded in 1919 and so it was fitting that an exhibition about the Society should be mounted for the Open Day on October 9th, 1976. The exhibition was staged as a separate entity within the one set up by the Dept. of Geography. All the varied activities of the Society were demonstrated. They attracted a lot of attention. A personal letter of thanks has been received from our President, Professor R.F. Peel, for staging the show.

Another centenary celebration was a Congregation for the conferring of Honorary Degrees. In the short list of seven to be so honoured was Dr. E.K. Tratman who was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his services to Spelaeology and Archaeology.

Publications

Proceedings. Volume 14(2), 1976. This issue will appear later this year. It will run to about 100 pages. The late date for publication this year has been caused by authors failing to send in their promised contributions at the agreed time. In 1974 the cost of printing worked out at about £6.50 per page. In 1976 the cost has risen to close on £9.00 per page.

Caves of North West Clare. The issue by the publishers of the first cheap edition of this book in 1974 has boosted sales. The only difference between the ordinary and the cheap edition is in the price. Both editions have a hard back cover. The Society has bought in a considerable number of the cheap edition and they are available not only to our own members but also to the general public. So if you want a copy yourself or know someone who wants one please order through the Society. The price is £3 plus postage and packing 60p. This is less than half the price of the ordinary edition. Royalties are now being paid to the Society and profits from our supply of the cheap edition also go to the Society. At April 4th 1976 the total number of copies sold was 1135. Sales of copies at the full list price rose sharply in 1975 - 1976.

Our President

Professor R.F. Peel is retiring from the University at the end of the present academic year and will be leaving Bristol. He has tendered his resignation. This has been accepted with regret. Though Professor Peel has not obviously taken an active part in the day to day running of the Society he has been, ever since he came to Bristol, a very good friend of the Society in many unobtrusive ways. He has been at all times our spokesman within the University administration and this has meant a lot to us, particularly in the accommodation which we have. Professor Peel takes with him our sincere thanks and good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Excavations

A start has been made on the excavation of Great Oone's Hole. The post-glacial deposits on the platform had all been removed before, so the first stage of our work was into a frost shattered layer with little in the way of remains. This layer seems to rest on a layer of tufaceous stalagmite, which extends outwards beyond the cave mouth.

The work at Rhinoceros Hole has been completed and also the Romano-British cult cemetery in the Fourth Chamber of Wookey Hole. Reports are being prepared.