

CIRCULAR

During the summer months members have taken part in many activities connected with the Society. A brief summary of these is given:-

Union Week. A guided tour to Avebury and Stonehenge was arranged. It proved a great success.

Mendip

Priddy Circles. Steady progress has been made. Fairly recently two empty stone holes have been found near the entrance to Circle 1. In the bank another large stone has been moved. It covered a pit not yet excavated. There is now evidence of at least two phases of construction. No dateable objects have been found.

Bos Swallet. The beaker levels have been exposed but the site is much more complicated than had been expected. There is a great depth of overburden to be moved.

Manor Farm Swallet. The shaft has been deepened to nearly 25ft. and timbered. The choke material is very compact and the water does not get away. At present there are several feet of water in the shaft.

Brean Down. The work on this Roman building occupied nearly a month. Assistance was given by many people as well as our own members. Two labourers were employed, paid for by grants from the Borough Council of Weston super Mare. The temple building itself is a square one inside a square verandah. There is another building to the South, presumably the priest's house. This has been rebuilt to another plan. The date of the first phase, which included the temple and the first priest's house is not earlier than 350 A.D. and may be as late as 390 A.D. The reconstruction is probably 50 or more years later. The temple had been disturbed. Some 120 coins were found but very little else. Part of a fallen arch of Bath stone was found with the voussoirs in their proper relative position. A unique find for this country. A further season, or seasons of digging of up to 8 weeks is required to finish this site as so far exposed. The site has been filled in for the winter.

Ireland. Faunarooska cave was surveyed. It may well prove to be the deepest cave in Ireland at well over 300 ft. Pollballiny was completely explored and surveyed. Both Faunarooska and Pollballiny turn North in their end parts, and in the case of the latter can be tied in with well developed surface depressions. In Pollnagollum (Slieve Elva) the series entered in 1952 by the R.A.F. Through Pollardua was the main passage going downstream enters Branch Passage at the waterfall. Upstream the end has not been reached, and a major branch has not been entered. There are marks to show that someone has been in the series once before. Some 1½ miles were surveyed. Flooding prevented recovery of some tackle at the end of our stay. A return journey to the end point reached in the survey takes 5 hours so that further progress will entail long trips with their attendant danger from flooding.

Field Headquarters. The interior has been repainted. The roof has been covered with tarred felt under the corrugated iron.

Proceedings. The next issue is now past the page proof stage and should be available by the end of September. It is a fairly large issue of 64 pages with many illustrations.

Sessional Meetings. The list accompanies this circular.

U.B.S.S. SESSIONAL MEETINGS

1957 - 1958

Tutorials. E.K. Tratman

The Prehistory of the Bristol Region.

Mondays Oct. 14th, 21st, 28th & Nov. 11th.

Sessional Meetings.

Nov. 4th Lady Aileen Fox, M.A., F.S.A.

"Early Settlement on Dartmoor"

Nov. 25th Mr. H.N. Savory, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A.

"Recent Work on Welsh Hill Forts".

Dec. 9th To be arranged.

Jan. 20th 1958. Mr. L. Railton

"Stereoscopic Photography of Caves"

Feb. 3rd 1958.

"Ireland 1956-1957"

B.R. Collingridge and G. Witts.

Mar. 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Presidential Address.

"The Lost Stone Circles of North Somerset".

E.K. Tratman, O.B.E., M.D.S., F.S.A.

*(Copied from bound example in UBSS Library;
undated, probably September 1957.)*