

Circular to Members - February 1960

Archaeology

Work finished at Priddy Circles last Summer and in the coming season it is intended to dig trial pits at both Burrington Camp and Dolebury Camp and if these reveal useful results more extensive excavations will be carried out at either or both of these monuments.

Mendip Rescue Organisation

The response of ex-student and outside members to the appeal for donations to the M.R.O. Research Fund has been rather disappointing, only £15-7s-0d having been received to date. The research project is proceeding steadily. On 10th January a practice was held in the Barton Street Baths, where a full scale model of Swildon's Sump I was sunk in the shallow end, and with the help of borrowed apparatus a succession of divers were able to swim through it, wrap up a subject on the far side, fit a mask for the compressed air supply onto his face and bring him back through the sump. The apparatus consists of face masks for two divers and one subject, fed by a high pressure tube with compressed air from cylinders. It is remarkably easy to manage and to handle. It is very expensive, but the time has come when M.R.O. has got to buy itself an outfit. The next practice will be held in Swildon's Sump I, when its practicability under cave conditions will be studied. It is planned to make a cinematographic record of the operation. This was done with some success at the Barton Hill Baths practice.

Dr. Oliver C. Lloyd has been asked by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine in the University to give the Edward Long Fox Memorial Lecture for 1960. He has chosen for his subject "Cave Rescue". The lecture will be on the evening of 18th October at a time and place within the University to be arranged later.

Caving - Away Trips

A trip is being planned to Yorkshire in the Easter Vacation and it is hoped to visit one of the following centres: Grassington (for Dow Cave), Horton-in-Ribblesdale (for Alum Pot) or Bull-Pot Farm (for Lancaster Hole or Ease Gill). Final details have not yet been arranged, but anyone interested should contact the secretary.

The customary Summer Vacation trip to Co. Clare, Eire will again take place; the main party will leave on 7th July and return to Bristol on 26th July. A fairly large programme of caving has already been drawn up by the President: this includes completion of the surveys of Caher Cloggaun West - I and of Pollnagollum and probably some photography of several of the more interesting known caves of the area.

A group of caving clubs has formed a committee to make arrangements for a Combined Clubs Expedition in 1961 to some lesser known part of Europe. The object will be to carry out some scientific as well as sporting caving. This will be open to members of our Society and the cost should not be excessive as it is hoped to obtain financial support from large firms and other organisations.

Hut extensions

The caravan used by the female members for sleeping accommodation at Burrington is now in such a state of disrepair that it is considered the time has come to replace it by a more permanent structure. The cost will be around £50, and it is hoped to raise this sum partly from hut levy and partly from individual gifts. Donations from members will be very gratefully received and should be sent to the treasurer.

Amendment of the Constitution

At the coming Annual General Meeting it is proposed to put before the meeting two proposals to amend the constitution. The first is required by Union Council and consists of the following addition to Rule 13 dealing with alteration of the constitution: "And any such amendment must be ratified by Union Council". The second is to replace "Student members of the Union" in Rule 3a by "Ordinary Members of the Union". This will restrict membership of the Society on a free basis to members of the University and will exclude life members of the Union. Such people will, of course, continue to be able to join the Society as Ex-student Members with an annual subscription of £1.

D.G. Mead, Hon. Secretary,
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