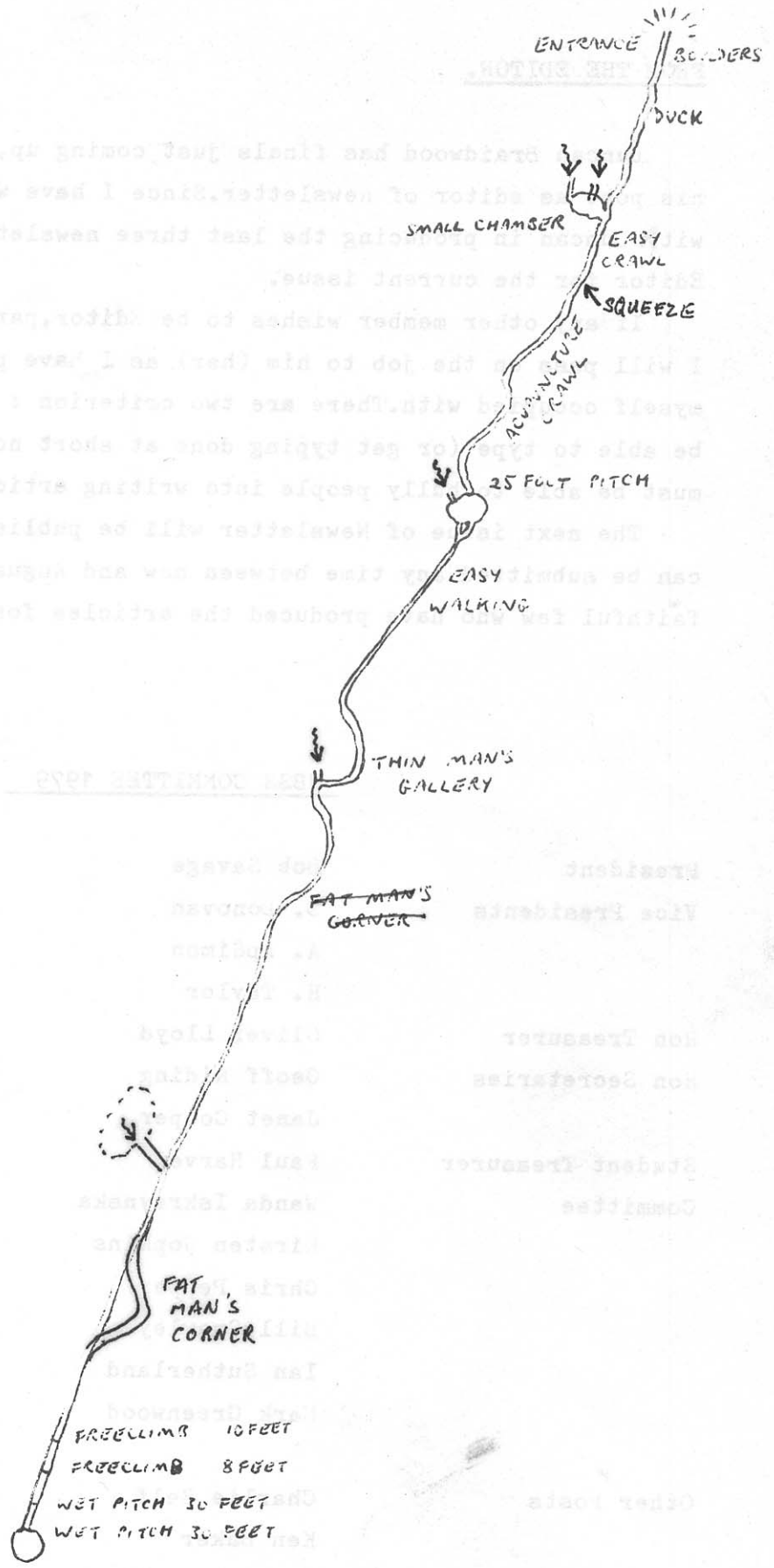


# UBSS

## NEWSLETTER

NEW SERIES NO 10



0 200 FEET

# BULLOCK POT

FROM THE EDITOR.

Duncan Braidwood has finals just coming up, and so has had to resign his post as editor of Newsletter. Since I have worked in close conjunction with Duncan in producing the last three newsletters I have taken over as Editor for the current issue.

If any other member wishes to be Editor, particularly a student member, I will pass on the job to him (her) as I have plenty of other work to keep myself occupied with. There are two criteria: firstly the new Editor must be able to type (or get typing done at short notice), and secondly (s)he must be able to bully people into writing articles.

The next issue of Newsletter will be published in early September. Articles can be submitted any time between now and August 31st. My thanks to the faithful few who have produced the articles for this newsletter.

Charlie Self

UBSS COMMITTEE 1979

President	Bob Savage	
Vice Presidents	D. Donovan	
	A. ApSimon	
	H. Taylor	
Hon Treasurer	Oliver Lloyd	Editor of printed publications
Hon Secretaries	Geoff Riding	
	Janet Cooper	
Student Treasurer	Paul Harvey	PRO
Committee	Wanda Iskrzynska	Sales Librarian
	Kirsten Hopkins	
	Chris Pepper	Hut Warden, Rescue Warden
	Bill Crawley	Tacklemaster
	Ian Sutherland	
	Mark Greenwood	
Other Posts	Charlie Self	Hon Librarian
	Ken Baker	MIC Photography
	James Russell	Museum Curator
	Cec Haines	Museum Assistant

DON'T FORGET THE PUB : TUESDAY NIGHT IN THE UPPER LOUNGE, CROCKERS (COTHAM HILL)

### SESSIONAL MEETING

Dr. John Frankland, who was prevented from coming to Bristol to talk to us at the end of January, is to come on Wednesday, May 9th, 1979 to give us his lecture entitled "Odd Odes from Grotty Grottoes". This will be at 8.15 pm. in the Geography Lecture Theatre, University Road. Admission free. O.C.L.

### WHIT HOLIDAY, MAY 25th TO 28th

There will be another U.B.S.S. expedition to Yorkshire, camping behind the Helwith Bridge. I expect to have the "Tent Palace" mended by then. Last year we had hot sunshine every day. O.C.L.

### IRISH TRIP IN JULY

We shall be leaving on July 13th and returning on July 27th. Owing to the postal strike in Ireland we have been unable to book accommodation. The party which was there at Easter reports that the prices for cottage accommodation were becoming increasingly steep. At the least we can camp. It is sure to be wet but unlikely to be cold. Destination Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, or thereabouts. O.C.L.

### B.C.R.A. CONGRESS

This is being held in Manchester at U.M.I.S.T. at the week end of September 15th. A party will be travelling north from Bristol. This is always a good opportunity for hearing about the latest caving exploits and of meeting old friends. O.C.L.

### UBSS SWEATSHIRTS

The order for UBSS sweatshirts and teeshirts has arrived at last. There are three colours : red, navy blue and black, which come in four sizes : small, medium, large and extra large. The design on the front of the shirts is the now updated version of the distinctive G.B. cave survey. The shirts are very good value and only £2 for the T-shirts and £4 for the sweatshirts. If you are interested in purchasing any, Contact me, Mick Seavers at 6A collingwood Road, Redland ( tel. 30837 ) or see Oliver Lloyd.

FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURES

Three more lectures will be given this term in the Union Building. Meet in the Long Bar at 9pm. The lectures will start promptly at 9.15

- |          |                      |  |
|----------|----------------------|--|
| 4th May  | Belay Techniques     | Clive Owen   |
| 11th May | Himalayas Slide Show | Charlie Self   |
| 18th May | Tackle Forum.        | A group discussion by all the Bristol based members regarding access to and security of the club tackle. |

TACKLE : A MESSAGE FROM THE MAFIA

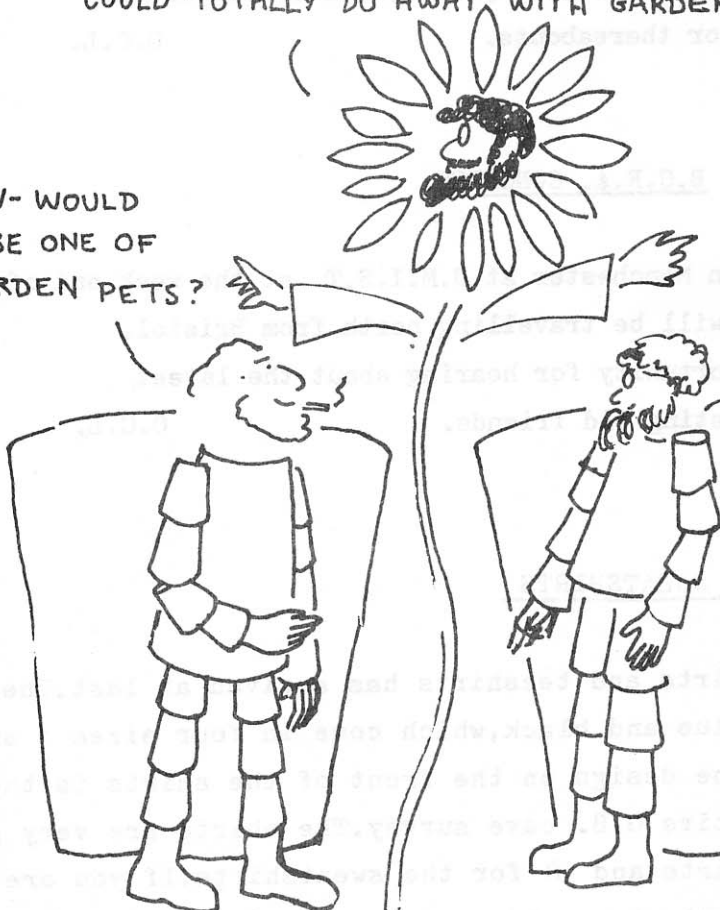
The following agreement has been reached with Bill Crawley, the tacklemaster. After 18th May, the Tackle Forum date, the tacklemaster will decide who has the most tackle still on loan. As an introductory offer the Mafia will accept the "contract" free of charge. If this proves a success, the tacklemaster will then put some more business our way.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

SATIRE SECTION

YOU KNOW, MODERN COMPUTERS  
COULD TOTALLY DO AWAY WITH GARDENING

W-W- WOULD  
THAT BE ONE OF  
THOSE GARDEN PETS?



I DISAGREE!  
-WHAT YOU REALLY NEED  
FOR GARDENING IS A  
COUPLE OF STICKS  
OF BANG.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Accounts were looking rather silly this year, because the bill had not yet been received for Proceedings Vol. 15 No. 1; in fact that Number had only appeared that very day, five months late. In consequence we had a large excess of income over expenditure to carry forward. Most of this will be used to pay for Proceedings but some of it is due to underspending. The Treasurer was in the habit of telling the money-spending members of Committee how much money there was to spend in April, when he presented his estimates for approval. At Christmas he usually did the double-entry and was able to tell them how much money there was still to spend (unless it was overspent) in mid-January. This did not always leave them time to rectify matters before the books closed on January 31st and the Treasurer was urged to present the Committee with a mid-sessional report in October of each year.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

On the snowy afternoon of Friday 16th March the Editor drove to Castle Cary to collect as much of Proceedings 15:1 as had been bound and trimmed -- 300 out of 500 copies. He was thus able to offer this publication to Members at their A.G.M. on St. Patrick's Day, about five months late.

It will be his aim this year to bring forward the date of publication to early December 1979. Now that he has completed round number one, it would seem that the printers take four months and one week to produce Proceedings after receiving final copy. This includes the Christmas vacation and later influenza epidemics.

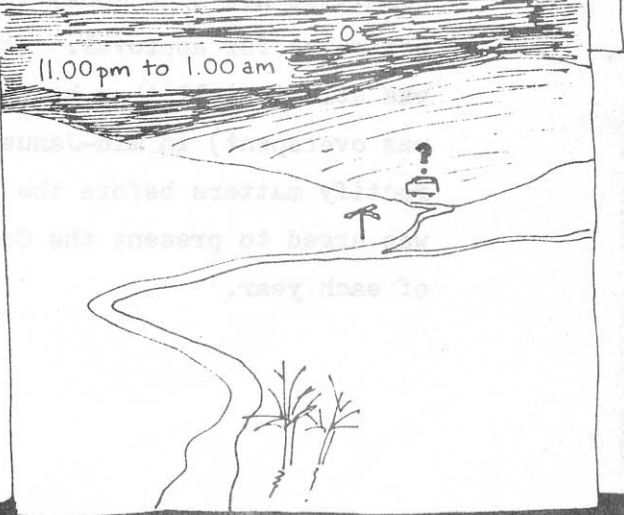
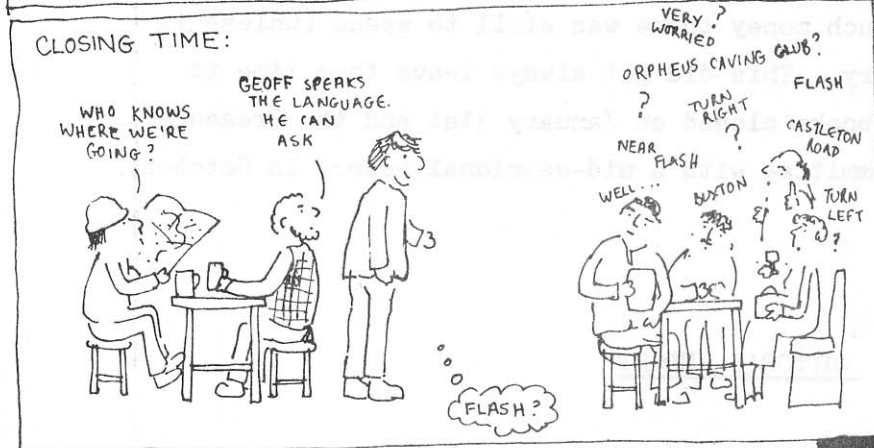
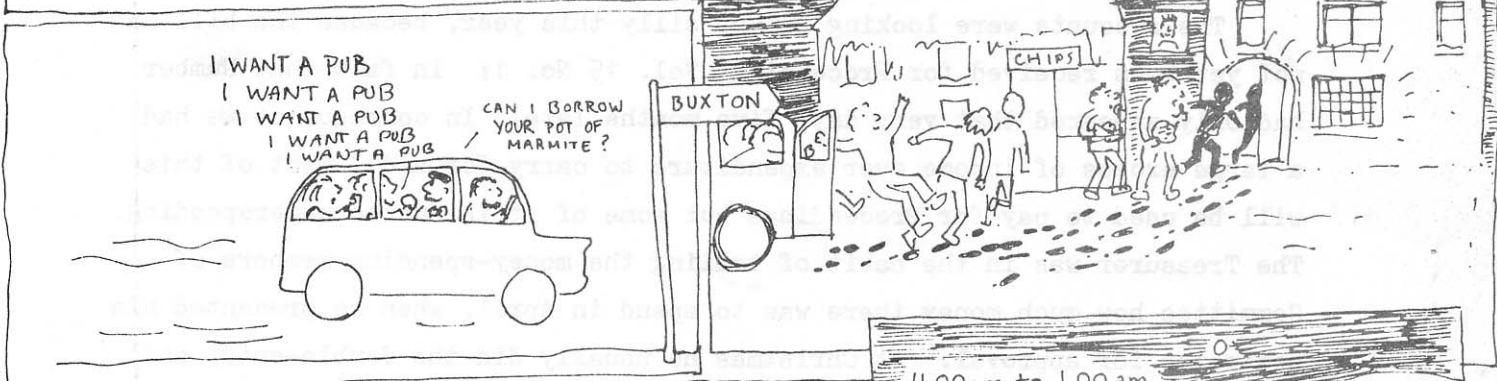
It is hoped to be able to adhere to the following time-table. May 31st, 1979, last date for receiving first drafts of papers. These then get circulated for advice. July 31st last date for final copy. Mid-August, take all the stuff to the printers. This will give them about four months, which should be enough, as it will cut out both the Christmas vacation and the 'flu epidemic.

Subscribing Members will be receiving with this Newsletter a little broadsheet prepared by the Editor called "Advice to Contributors". This is intended to provide encouragement and help even to those who may never yet have written a scientific paper.

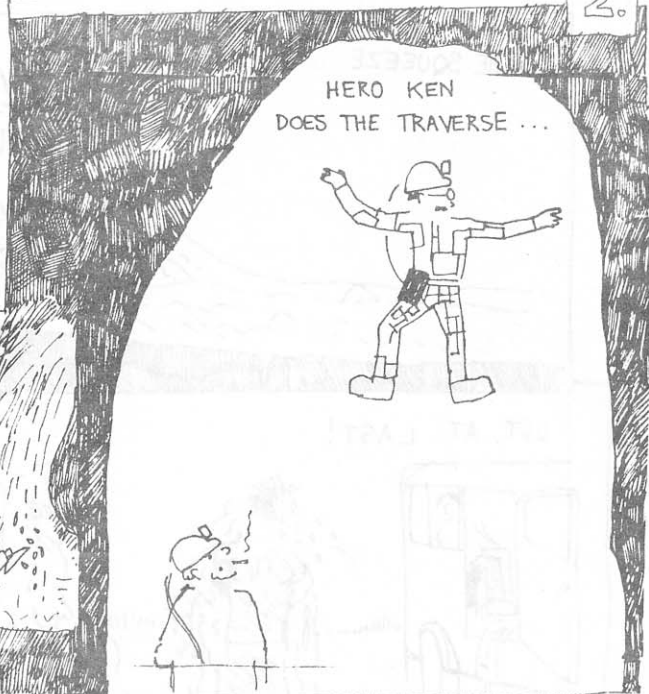


# U.B.S.S. in Derbyshire

March '79



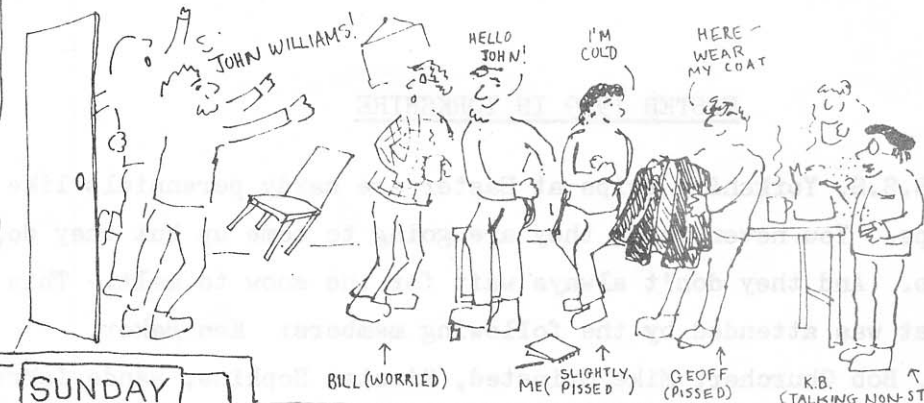
GIANT'S CAVE



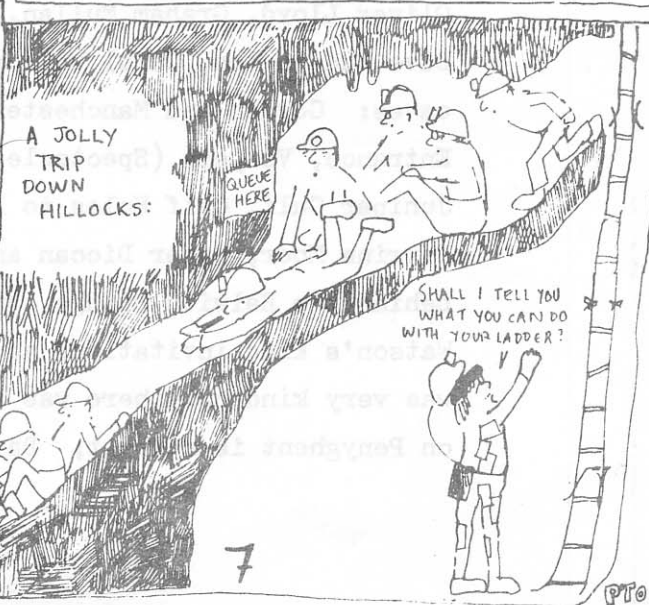
THE DRIVE BACK TO ORPHEUS IS NOT WITHOUT INCIDENT:

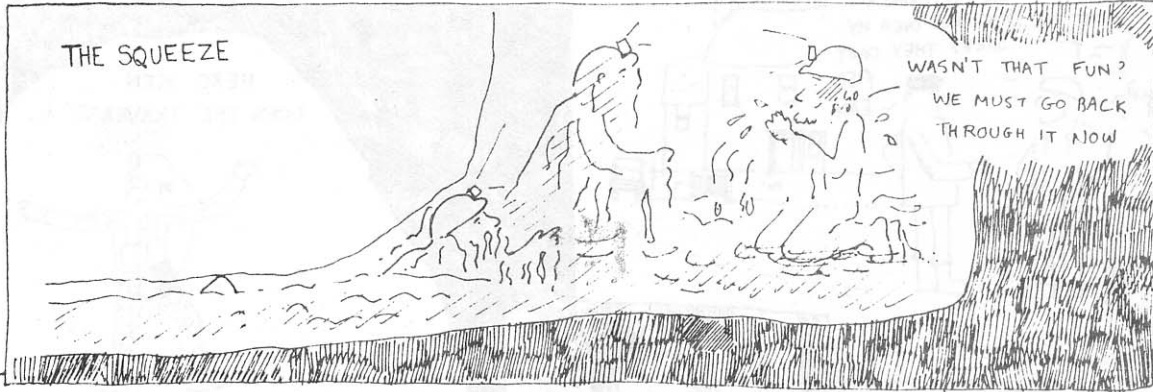


AFTER PUB:



SUNDAY





NB: THIS IS AN EDITED VERSION. FULL COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARTIST (5 PAGES FOR 25P)

EASTER 1979 IN YORKSHIRE

The U.B.S.S. Yorkshire trips at Easter are hardy perennials like the snowdrops. You never think they are going to come up but they do, all the same. And they don't always wait for the snow to melt. This year the meet was attended by the following members: Ken Baker, Ian Cassely, Bob Churcher, Mike Grinsted, Kirsten Hopkins, Wanda Iskrzynska, Oliver Lloyd, Graham Mullan, Clive Owen, Chris Pepper, Mark Tringham, Dave Waddington, Carol Walford and Mike Watson. They did the following caves: Goyden and Manchester Pots, Simpson's and Swinsto Pots, Valley Entrance, Vespers (Spectacle), Darnbrook Pot and a mine, Ingleborough Cave, Juniper Gulf, Calf Holes to Brow Gill, Wades (Flood Entrance Pot), Borrins Moor, Upper Diccan and Long Churn. They camped first and last behind the Helwith Bridge, but in between went to Braida Garth, at Mike Watson's kind invitation, and that was more comfortable. The weather was very kind but there was a lot of water about. The early purple saxifrage on Penyghent is not out; Dave and I tramped through snow to find it.



GB SUMP

I would like to recall a rather frightening experience. On Wednesday afternoon, 13 December 1978, I was in G.B. and approx at 3pm I climbed up to the ladder dig extension. The water level of the sump at the bottom of the Gorge was just at the base of the ladder. When I returned out of the extension after 1½ hours the water level had gone down by 5 cms.

Wednesday night and Thursday it rained heavily.

On Friday, 15 December I went down G.B. again, and found that the level of the sump pool had risen by one metre, compared to the previous Wednesday. To climb the ladder I had to wade through the water up to my waist. But, when I wanted to go into the passage to Helictite Chamber, I found the dig under the false-floor to be full of water. Froth on the wall showed me that the water level had been a few centimetres above the floor of the first few metres of passage. This means that shortly after heavy rainfall the water in the sump backs up and rises four or five metres in one day or less! Even more worrying is the fact that this was the first big rainstorm that occurred after a long spell of relatively dry weather.

I would suggest that a notice of some sort must be put up to warn people not to enter the extensions if the sump pool is as high as the bottom of the climb, because it is not impossible for someone to get trapped in Helictite Chamber with the exit to the Gorge full of water.

Hans Friederich

MORE NEWS FROM G.B.

In the first week of January 1979 somebody has dug out the floor of the Mud Passage where it joins the Gorge. As a result the pool that had formed and was ½ metre deep is drained.

This is yet another step to total destruction of the cave. Soon it will be so easy to get down into the Gorge that you can take your Granny down G.B. for a Sunday afternoon trip.

BULLOCK POT, COUNTY CLARE.

A new cave, Bullock Pot, was discovered at Easter in County Clare. The explorers have not given me the promised article, so here are some details from the logbook. Bullock Pot lies by the roadside on the east side of Blieve Glva, almost directly opposite Poulelva. "The most tortuous, horrible, nasty, vile bit of canyon that I have ever been in" (Phil Buckberry) leads via a duck to a pitch of 25 feet. Further unpleasant canyon passage lead to a very broken 75ft pitch where the party ran out of time and tackle. The cave runs due South for about 2000 feet and is about 160 feet deep.

## CAVES OF COUNTY CLARE

A couple of years ago the idea was first put forward to update "Caves of North-West Clare, Ireland", the book that the Society published in 1969. As the idea gained ground it became apparant that simply updating the old book would not be the best way to serve the considerable number of cavers now visiting County Clare, and the decision was made to write two new books: one a caving guidebook and the other a science and natural history book on the lines of the "Limestone and Caves" series published by BCRA. A little over a year ago Charlie Self began work on the guidebook.

The early work consisted of making an exploration index of the Irish logbooks and was completed by Easter 1978. The next job was to persuade other members of the Society to put pen to paper as authors for the individual caves. This has proved the most frustrating part so far. Although there has been a tremendous enthusiasm that the club should produce a guidebook, authors have been very hard to find. In addition many of the original supposed authors have opted out due to "pressure of work", the perennial excuse.

Now, Easter 1979, I can give a report on the progress of the book. A large proportion of the first draft has been written and in the next few weeks I will be typing the collated and edited material ready for the printers. The format of the book, the introductory chapters and the main bulk of the writing for the "classic" region (the Western Burren) is the responsibility of myself, Charlie Self. Dave Drew of Trinity College, Dublin is writing about the Eastern Burren, a part of County Clare where he is the undisputed expert having done most of the original exploration work himself; he is also writing the sections on South Clare and the Bort area of County Galway, giving us a much larger area of study than the original book. Cec Haines has taken on the job of drawing all the maps for the book and will also be submitting sketches of some typical features of the region.

In addition to these three massive tasks Oliver Lloyd has written the chapter dealing with the Doolin Cave System and will be looking after the book after it has gone to the printers; the financing of the book is also under his guidance. Julian and Carol Walford are writing about the longest cave in the region, the Poulmagollum-Poulelva System, and several other members have already submitted their contributions. In the west of the region two chapters are autonomous: the west coast, writtn by Sally Britten, and Cughtdarra written by Ken Miller. A set of excellent photographs have been given to us by Paul Deakin ARIS for inclusion in the guidebook.

This, then, is the state of play so far. With luck the book will be ready for the printers in a couple of months time, and if this is achieved it will be published before the end of the year.

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