

SECRETARIES' REPORT, 1981-82

The Society has been very successful this year. On the sporting side we are pleased to say that there has been considerable interest shown by first year students. Hopefully this will continue in future years. On the academic side the major achievement of the year has been the publication of the guide book to the Caves of Co. Clare, compiled by Charlie Self.

There have been numerous trips to the Mendips and South Wales and a number of members have been to Ireland during the year. In the summer Bullock Pot was surveyed, a radiolocation of the end of Pollballiny was carried out and a number of other extensions were made.

Also during the summer members formed an expedition with the Cambridge University Caving Club to the Löser Plateau in the Totes Gebirge in Austria. During the course of this expedition two major systems, Stellerweghöhle and Schnellzughöhle, were connected and extended. A return trip is planned for summer 1982.

On a rather less happy note, at the end of January there was a fire causing extensive damage to the Geography Department. Fortunately the fire did not extend to the Society's rooms in the basement, although there was some damage to books in the library, as a result of water leaking through from above. A further consequence of the fire is that access to the Spelaeo Rooms has been severely restricted whilst rebuilding is taking place.

We are, as always, grateful to the University of Bristol for a grant towards the publication of Proceedings and to the University of Bristol Union for grants covering the everyday running of the Society: tackle, travel, photography and the library. We are also grateful to the University for substantial grants from the Tratman Fund for expeditions abroad.

March, 1982

Mike Martin and Steve McArdle