

## SECRETARIES' REPORT, 1982

### SESSIONAL MEETINGS

There has been one sessional meeting this year, when Pete Smart explained what caves are and where they can be found. At the Annual General Meeting Tim Lyons described his caving adventures in Papua New Guinea.

### CAVING

**Mendip:** Many mid-week trips have taken place to supplement those at weekends. An interest in the Bath stone mines has sprung up in one quarter. Digging in G.B. Cave has died down again since the summer, due to the wet weather. The ladder dig passage is now frequently sumped.

**Derbyshire:** One club trip and numerous small student parties have been to this area over the past year.

**Yorkshire:** The Easter camp at Clapham was a great success and much was learnt about S.R.T. Encouragingly, students have been taking themselves to the region and tackling some good S.R.T. trips.

**Co. Clare:** Trips at Easter and in July were both fortunate in having very fine weather and low water. Extensions were made both above and below water. Surveying and radiolocation work continues, as usual, and surface work continued in the Balliny Depression.

**Austria:** The Cambridge University Caving Club had a very successful expedition and this Society was represented by lots of tackle.

**Bahamas:** Tony Boycott was one of a large Cave Diving Group party exploring the Blue Holes and film making.

**Hawaii:** Phil Chapman and Mick McHale made biospelaeological studies in the lava tubes over Christmas.

### B.C.R.A. CONFERENCE

This Society hosted this conference in September, 1982 in the Students' Union. It went very smoothly. Oliver Lloyd and Charlie Self read a paper on the Balliny Depression. Charlie was presented with the Tratman Award for 'Caves of Co. Clare': an outstanding publication. E.K.T. would have approved.

### IN STORE

The Museum, Photography, Library and Equipment are all now safely in temporary storage in the University, since the fire in the Geography Department flooded us out in February 1982. New premises are being sought.

The late Dr. H. Taylor left the Society artefacts and photographic material for our collections.

### HUT

A new water system has been installed at the Burrington Field H.Q. The new 'Ivy Bower' is over 5m deep.

Finally we would like to thank the University of Bristol for grants towards the cost of publishing Proceedings and the Students' Union for grants to the general running of the Society, travelling allowances and equipment for caving and archaeology. The University has besides this given us substantial grants for expeditions out of the Tratman Fund.

We would like to thank the staff and officers of the University, who have been very helpful in our accommodation crisis.

S. A. F. McArdle and A. N. Patrick

March, 1983