

SECRETARIES REPORT

MARCH 1991 - MARCH 1992

Research

At Bristol University Andrew Farrant has begun a Ph.D. study into long term quaternary chronologies using cave geomorphology and sediments and the techniques of electron spin resonance paleomagnetic stratigraphy and uranium-thorium dating. Dr. Peter Smart has published a book in conjunction with P.D. Frances on Quaternary Dating Methods, A User Guide. Fiona Whittaker is completing her study of the potential for dolomitisation by saline ground waters actively circulating through the Great Bahamas Bank. Alan Edwards is also completing his study on the hydrological aspects of waste disposal in the carboniferous limestone aquifer. Chris Proctor published his work on high sea level deposits at Corbridge Cave, Berry Head, and is continuing his research in Devon and on the Gower Peninsula.

The Karst Research Group is working in collaboration with students from different countries; with a student at Fribourg University in Switzerland they are looking at paleoclimates of the Moroccan mountains using speleothem dating and with a turkish student they are studying Pamakkule travertines to determine recent tectonic activity.

Archeological work at the Hyaena Den, near Wookey Hole has been continued by Chris Hawkes and Roger Jacobi.

Caving

This year has once again seen the Society very active both nationally, with many trips around this country, and internationally, with a large number of cavers going on expedition. In March Charlie Self returned to the Turkmenia region of Russia to continue his mineralogical studies and was rewarded by the discovery of a new cave mineral. Dick Willis returned to China with the China Caves Project. He also joined Dr. Peter Smart on the expedition to Borneo. Ireland has also been a popular choice this year with a number of groups visiting the area, for recreational, introductory and exploratory caving.

New found interest in digging last year means that the G.B. dig is still a promising site, whilst work in Tynning's Great Swallet has seen a decline over the year.

Meetings

In May Nick Barton gave a practical demonstration and tuition into the art of Flint Knapping. Due to problems with room space Sessional Meetings have been arranged at shorter notice, but attendance has still been good. In October, Graham Crisp gave a fantastic view into the world of the dedicated cave photographer and included a marvellous slide sound sequence of Dan yr Ogof.

In December Bill Gascoine gave an up to date talk on the recent exploration and discoveries at Carno Adit under Llangattock.

Relocation of the Society

During the past year, the Society has had to move from the Union to allow for the expansion of the International Office. The new rooms are situated at the rear of 19 Woodland Road and the Library and Museum are now stored within. Our thanks are extended to all those members who helped with this move and to everyone who contacted the University in support of the Society. Work has now started on the organisation of both the Library and the Museum and it is hoped that a new Museum display will be ready during the coming year.

Retirement

This year sees the retirement of our President. Professor John Thornes has been with the Society for the past two years and has steered us through the difficult period of our relocation. He has left the University to take a post at Kings College London where we wish him the best.

Acknowledgments

The University of Bristol made a grant towards the cost of publishing *Proceedings*. The Students' Union made a grant to assist with the running of the Society. The Tratman Fund helped support the large number of cavers travelling abroad. The Oliver Lloyd Memorial Fund has agreed a grant to cover the colour reproductions of Russian cave minerals in *Proceedings*.

Who would like to thank the Bristol City Museum for their kind help in providing storage space for the Society's Museum collection during the period of relocation.

Steve Cottle & Alison Garrard