

## SECRETARIES' REPORT MARCH 1993-1994

### *Research*

Andy Farrant is now in his final year of studying landscape evolution by dating caves and their deposits. This study is based on fieldwork in Sarawak, Derbyshire and the Mendips. Mark Roberts has just started a Ph.D. study into stable isotopes and trace isotopes in speleothems as possible paleoclimatic indicators.

At the time of writing, Dr. Peter Smart and his team are in the Bahamas researching zone geochemistry in the local Blue Holes; Dr. Fiona Whittaker is developing a 2D coupled sediment-diagenesis computer model to study large scale variations in carbonate mineralogy and porosity. The karst research group are also continuing their collaboration with Turkish workers investigating the potential palaeoclimate record of vein calcites at Pammukule in Turkey, to study the role of Milancovitch forcing mechanisms on climate.

We would like to congratulate Chris Howes on receiving the Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award for general research, from the NSS. This is only the second time that this award has gone outside the USA. Chris also won their photo salon prize, for prints, for the third year running.

### *Archaeology*

Chris Hawkes and Dr. Roger Jacobi are continuing their work at the Hyaena Den. Arthur ApSimon is re-evaluating the Bos Swallet Beaker Site. He believes that the old interpretation of this site as having been disturbed by miners is inaccurate.

Work on recataloguing the Society's collection continues to take place on Tuesday evenings.

### *Caving*

Unfortunately the scheduled expedition to Slovenia had to be cancelled last summer. However despite some minor problems this year's foray is set to go ahead.

Dr. Peter Smart is presently in the Bahamas, whilst Dr. Tony Boycott has just returned from an expedition to India. His team explored and surveyed 12 km of new cave passage and discovered the longest cave in the country.

The G.B. dig has unfortunately made little progress. However there was an upsurge of interest in the Tynings Great Swallet dig, so it was a shame that it fell in during the winter.

### *Meetings*

The first meeting of the year was given by John Cornwell, of Bristol Coal Mining Archives, who gave a fascinating account of the local coal industry, and its remains. There was a poor turnout to the second meeting, an account of archaeological work at Kent's Cavern. The third meeting, by contrast was very well attended. Dr. Peter Glanville gave a highly inspirational slide show and talk on his several trips to the Caves of Assynt.

### *Miscellaneous Activities*

Due to the prowess of William Miners at the previous event, the Society was landed with hosting the Wessex Challenge, in July. After much preparation the day was a huge success and much merriment occurred in Priddy that evening. A total of £250 was raised for the MRO. Thankfully we did not win again.

Bristol was the venue for the BCRA conference this year. Numerous members assisted on the weekend but special thanks must go to Andy Farrant who was heavily involved with the organisation beforehand.

Thanks must be offered to Charlie Self for repairing the chimney at the Hut. According to recent users it is now far more efficient.

### *Acknowledgements*

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