

## **ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING CLUB**

### **NEWSLETTER No 2**

**FEBRUARY 1965**

A great deal has happened since our last newsletter , the most notable event being the opening of the Wigpool Iron Mine . This mine closed down in 1924 and the various entrances had become lost and forgotten until a little determined effort by the club members revealed first one entrance and then working from below about a ton of rubble and rubbish was removed to reveal another entrance slightly more accessible . The mine in general is in very good order with excellent small formations here and there and A.C. Day ( G.S.S and R.F.D.C.C ) assures us that those are the finest small formations he has seen in any mine . For obvious reason we are gating both entrances but we shall be very pleased to provide guides or access to any other club interested . We shall cover Wigpool fully in the journal.

We thank A.C.Day for representing us at the convention of the council of southern caving clubs held on JAN, 9<sup>th</sup>, 1965, and we have now made formal application for membership and been accepted by the council. In order that members appreciate the purpose of the C.S.C.C.. we are putting the minutes of the convention and the letter we received on the circulation list when every member will be able to peruse and digest at their leisure.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> FEB a group of members were digging at Mayhill when they discovered some brownish cylindrical lumps about eight inches long and roughly two inches in diameter. After reading the barely discernable writing on one of them they called the police who in turn called in the army, and they had the job of detonating fifty sticks of gelignite in four batches. The moral behind the story seem to be that if you are digging and happen to come across some brown lumps, go carefully for they may not be what you think they are. Apparently, this dig holds good promise for the future.

Further to our discussion with friends in G.S.S, regarding a closer liaison between the two clubs we now have, thanks to Pete Standing the G.S.S. librarian, complete copies of all the G.S.S. journals to date. We have accumulated so much literature of a varied and valuable nature that the appointment of a club librarian is long overdue, do we have any volunteers ? A letter has been received from Commander T.R. Shaw of the British Speleological Association requesting copies of the Newsletter and Journals for the Abstract Services so of course we shall add his name to the mailing list.

Tony Day informs us that John K. Dryden the editor of the Speleological Yearbook and Diary is starting a bi-monthly magazine called "The Speleologist ". We wish John every success in this venture and if the standard is up to that of the "Yearbook" we can look forward to some interesting reading. We have ordered six copies of the first issue, only two of which are booked at the moment. John, Tony and Tony Day of the G.S.S. would like us to escort them through the beauty spots of Wigpool and this will be arranged later to our mutual convenience.

After an enjoyable visit to Wigpool, Mel Davies and Russel Sullivan of B.N.S. Speleology Section have invited us to visit Agen Allwedd, the biggest cave system in Britain, and this we shall soon be organizing. Will all interested please contact Roger.

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On the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month the Birmingham Speleological Society will be visiting the Forest of Dean and Alison Brown has asked us to provide guides. We hope there will be sufficient time to show them Wigpool and possibly Old Bow and Old Ham.

With the greatly increased interest being shown in the Forest of Dean area an efficient Cave Rescue Service has become much more important and this will be discussed fully at the next meeting, Dr Parsons of Mitcheldean, an experienced caver has agreed to co-operate in an emergency.

Of interest to the biologically minded be the "Springtails" ( Collembola ) found in some of the small pools in Wigpool, and Roger is seeking more information on those.

Records are now being made of all trips, whether above or below ground and members are asked to record as many useful details as possible for the Club archives.

Following our appeal in the last newsletter we have received one article towards our first journal which we hope to publish early in the spring. This is your Club and it will be your journal, therefore we must have your articles in the spring. This is your club and it will be your journal, therefore we must have your articles. Still double line spacing please, and we shall be grateful for all contributions whether great or small.

Pass them to Roger and we will do rest.

Our next meeting will be held in the Royal Forest Inn at 7.30pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Roger Bailey, Hon, Sec.  
Rose Cottage, Aston Crews, Lea.  
Ross-on-Wye, Hereford

Ted Lewis, Ed, Hon, Chairman.  
Springfield, Masons Cross,  
Monmouth. MON.