



ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN  
CAVING CLUB

NOVEMBER 1967

NEWS LETTER

NO. 9

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### **Future Program.**

2<sup>nd</sup> November - R F D C C - A G M.  
5<sup>TH</sup> November - To be arranged in Forest.  
8<sup>th</sup> November - Rung drilling.  
9<sup>th</sup> November - Graham Yates farewell party.  
12<sup>th</sup> November - Salesian School trip.  
17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November - Weekend at Penwyllt.  
26<sup>th</sup> November - Visitors trip for P G L Scouts.  
1<sup>st</sup> December - Cave rescue group buffet /social.  
19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> January - Weekend at Pewyllt.

Members address list - 1967.

Library list .

Cave registry record sheet.

## **GENERAL NEWS SECTION**

By the time you read this newsletter, the third A G M of the club will be over and the club will be entering its fourth year. Membership has grown steadily over the three years at a steady rate and although we didn't make our, hoped for 50 members, resulted in a satisfactory number providing a basis for further growth next year. Losses in membership this year are expected to be in the order of 8 to 10 and unfortunately include some of our more active and older members.

However, the club as a whole has never been more active and there are no reasons to think that the future looks anything but bright.

Roger Bailey's article on Iron Mine Formation Ages provoked many comments after the last newsletter but no written replies even though a number of members indicated that they would like to. For a club with what must be one of the largest percentages of argumentative members, you are surprisingly quiet when offered the opportunity to present your arguments without fear of interruptions.

Financially the club is on reasonably good ground although most of the funds appear to be in the hands of the members instead of the treasurer. As the following extract from the clubs bank account shows, we were in dire trouble in the summer and we are extremely grateful to the anonymous donor who paid in sufficient funds to cover our overdraft. Not that there are many clubs about whose bank would trust them to the extent that ours seems to have done.

The rumour that the club treasurer left for his holiday in New York, Japan, South Africa, Majorca on 19<sup>th</sup> July is totally untrue and he will show anyone his overdraft to prove it.

On the subject of money - all subscriptions for the year ending November 1968 are now due and should be paid to the treasurer before 1<sup>st</sup> February 1968. Fees are now as follows :-

Senior members ( over 18 ) 15/-d per annum.

Junior members ( under 18 ) 7/6d per annum.

## **MEMBERS ADDRESS LIST**

At the back of this newsletter will be found a complete list of all members and their addresses as they are known to the secretary at the moment. In order to keep the records up to date and to ensure that you receive all newsletters etc, if your address is incorrect please let the secretary know as soon as possible. In writing please.

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBER.**

Ever since the club's constitution was formed, it has been a topic of discussion as to exactly when the club might give honorary life membership. However, when Edna Keane applied to join the club there was no doubt in the committee's mind that this was exactly the occasion to offer it. This was recommended to the members present at the meeting of October and they showed themselves to think the same way as the committee by unanimously electing Edna the first honorary life membership of the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club.

Below is an open letter from Edna to all club members :-

Dear everyone,

Please accept my sincere thanks for the honour of becoming the clubs very first honorary member. My thanks too for comfort and strength I have received from your company in the last extremely difficult months.

Caving was a source of many happy hours for Rex and though I hope that you will continue to enjoy many more years of caving, I would like to occasionally think of him and therefore be that little extra careful and so prevent as far as possible any more serious accidents.

Yours sincerely,  
Edna Keane.

## **CAVE REGISTRY.**

Some slight disagreements have arisen recently within the club over the finding of new speleological sites and also over the re-discovery of known sites. The most certain method of making sure everyone knows that you have found a new hole, depression or rising is to fill in a cave registry blank of the type at the end of this newsletter.

At the same time, should the hole etc already be known, the registry will give you full information on it. The club has spent not an inconsiderable sum of money on the necessary stationary etc, in partnership with

G S S. for the registry and it would be silly not to record the finds as they are made. As the registry grows the final copies will be made available to all members as a reference to the caves and mines in the whole of Gloucestershire and the surrounding areas. Cave registry blanks are obtainable from the club secretary.

### **LADDER AND CASTLE**

Very little real effort has been put into either the ladder building or the castle H Q, so please take note of the Future Activities section where the start of a blitz is detailed. A word of warning to members - when the club ladder is completed, priority will be given to those members that actually helped build when the ladder is wanted for a trip.

The castle H Q, could become a very comfortable meeting place and could also supplement club funds if it were rebuilt in the way that was originally planned. So if you fancy yourself with a paint brush or cement or a chisel, come along on a Wednesday evening and help the committee justify the expenditure of the rent.

Total ladder built so far - 320ft.

### **LIBRARY LIST**

Occupying three pages at the rear of this newsletter is a complete list of all the publications the club owns that the librarian has been able to find. Many of the publications look a bit out of place but in nearly all cases are in the library because they have something in them of particular interest to cavers in this area. Any of the publications can be borrowed for a short period of time by making suitable application to the librarian.

At a later date, when we know who the librarian is we would like to compile a list of all the publications in private hands of the club members so that when they are prepared to lend them out, other club members will know where they can borrow a copy of the appropriate book.

The library also contains copies of all club newsletters to date.

### **CAVE RESCUE GROUP BARBEQUE AND SOCIAL**

The proposed barbeque unfortunately had to be postponed for a number of reasons, the major one being that it seemed unlikely that all the necessary work could be done in time. It is hoped to rearrange it for some time after Christmas. The social evening is being held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the White Hart Hotel, Cinderford as last year and it is hoped that all club members will make the effort to attend. The evening is informal with a buffet meal and, judging an last year, will be another success. Ticket prices are higher than at the Butchers Arms but the White Hart is run by their relatives and the food is very good. No profit is made from the sale of the tickets at 16/6d each, 10/-d of it going on food and the other 3/6d going on entertainments and expenses. If you don't go, you'll regret it when you hear from someone that did.

Tickets are available in bulk from :-

Ted Lewis, Jim Hay, Roger and Laurence Bailey.

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES SECTION**

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October.**

A very mixed party went down to the new extensions in Old Bow Mine to see the new formations. Some went in the dig way but a number of others, for private reasons of their own went in the easy way through the main part of the mine. The formations are undoubtedly the finest in the Forest and there may be other sin the vicinity. A large number of photographs were taken and some time was spent making stal fluorescent under the u v light from an electronic flash gun. Provided the eyes were closed when the gun was actually fired, the stal provided enough lime green light for about 5 seconds to illuminate the whole small chamber.

The trip was followed by Tony Days stag party at the Butchers Arms where everyone was very sober until they stood up to go home, then they decided to take some bottles to the G S S cottage to continue the party. A big fire was successfully lit using Tony's socks and a good time was had by until about 3.30am when people kept dropping off to sleep. There was still beer left too. This happy occasion was, of course, followed by Tony and Jean getting married on the following Saturday. Please don't mention weddings and sherry to Rod.

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

An enormous party of 20 including two ex-coal miners were taken down Old Ham - New Dun series on a visitors trip. Two of those that attended Tony's stag party the night before were seen leaning weakly on the fence near the entrance at this time but they didn't make any attempt to join in.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.**

Nine P G L staff were given a trip around Old Bow and a super at the Butchers Arms afterwards as a way of thanks by the club for the profitable co-operation during the summer. It is hoped that the same arrangements will apply again next year.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

A day trip to Pwyllt was very successful with a party of seven doing a trip around O F D I and the other four doing O F D 2. The stream had been 3ft over the step on the Saturday but had dropped to normal by the Sunday so the trips were comparatively dry, although some will not agree - see Who's Who.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

A number of members went from the Biblins log cabin to help the Youth Authorities provide some scenes of Youth activities for a Pathe cameraman. The original idea was to do some abseiling and some wet-suiting in the river and then go home. Some laddering some abseiling, a lot of wet-suiting and some caving were done for him but the line was drawn when, after 4.5hrs, he asked for a tent encampment to be erected for some camping scenes. At this time there were just three club members on the site, all the youth people having sensibly gone home for lunch.

Work was re-started on Whippinton Brook Rising during the month but an enormous amount of silt and rubble has washed into the entrance and a lot needs to be done. The draft, which was very obvious at the start has disappeared in the clay but the direction of digging is known from the previous work done on the rising.

The Baileys continued work in the Old Bow extensions with the object of striking north along the outcrop towards the Easter Mine workings. Unfortunately Puzzle Wood lived up to its name and the first big breakthrough was back into a passage near the original entrance.

Where there are still plenty of possibilities in the area and many relics are being found including large amounts of coal taken in by the miners and also Nellies.

The water levels are rising rapidly with all this rain and it is reported that the main level in Oakwood Mill Mine, dry for only a short time this year, has flooded again and is now impassable.

## **FUTURE PROGRAM SECTION**

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual general meeting of the R F D C C.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

To be arranged - Forest dig or beginners trip or both.

### **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

Rung drilling session at Ted Lewis's to produce enough complete rungs for ladder making. About 100 rungs per hour can be made provided a team of 8 or more is prepared to get on with it. See Ted if you are interested in helping out.

### **Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> November.**

Graham Yates leaves for South Africa on 13<sup>th</sup> November so bring your wives or girlfriends (or both) to the Butchers Arms on the 9<sup>th</sup> to help provide him with a memorable send off from the club. Present thought is for a 2/6d supper on the evening so book not later than Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> with Jim Hay.

### **Sun 12<sup>th</sup> November.**

Visitors trip of Salesian School, Longhope to Old Ham iron Mine. Starts at 2 pm.

All day ladder making session at the castle. As many workers as possible needed for this as any spare bodies (in the unlikely event of there being any) can carry on with the H Q. decorating and building. Ladder making is moving very slowly so far and there are a number of holes that could be entered if we had sufficient length of ladder available.

### **Fri 17<sup>th</sup> - Sun 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

Weekend trip for 10 to Penwyllt to Dan-yr-Ogof and Ffynon Ddu 2. As the numbers are restricted to 10, this trip will be for wet suit owners only. Book early to avoid disappointment.

### **Sun 26<sup>th</sup> November.**

Visitors trip of Scouts arranged by P G L. This is a visit of 24 Scouts that intends to form their own caving section and they require a little more than the normal wander around Old Ham. To provide this number of visitors with basic caving instruction will mean a large number of club members on the spot all day. Careful organisation will be necessary and all members able to spend 10 am - 4 pm in Old Ham that are asked to attend. Spare lamps and helmets will be very welcome.

### **Fri 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

G C R G. buffet and social. Tickets are now available from committee members - Ted Lewis - Jim Hay - Roger and Laurence Bailey - price 13/6d as last year. To be held at the White Hart, Cindeford again, the pattern of the evening is to follow that of last year - a fairly informal evening with plenty of food and drink and no profit being made.

### **Fri 19<sup>th</sup> - Sun 21<sup>st</sup> January.**

Advance warning of a booking for 15 for a weekend at Penwyllt. Keep it in mind if you are thinking about making wet suits.

### **WHO's - WHO.**

1. - Who's cavers son, when marriage was being discussed, said "when are you going to try it sometime, Dad" .
2. - Who is the newly married caver that wants to know how much Family membership costs.
3. - Who's NIFE cell went out in sympathy with a candle when looking for bad air.
4. - Who paid 2/6d to take a photo of Giants Hole.
5. - Who couldn't get up on Monday morning after a beginners trip into O F D 1. On Sunday.
6. - Who got wet in the waterfall in O F D 1.
7. - Who has a newly acquired camera that takes good shots of the inside of the lens cap.
8. - Who wants Whippington Brook Rising added to the list of newly discovered speleological sites.
9. - Who were the 'Glos Youths' in the club that jumped into a flooded River Wye for a cameraman.
10. - Who was the club member that recently got lost underground on the London underground.

Hon. Secretary.

Jim Hay.

MEMBERS ADDRESS LIST 1967.

P. Atherton - 6 Bromley Rd Horfield Bristol 7.  
W. Austin - Sunview 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Greytrees Ross-on-Wye Hfd's.  
D. Bailey - 134 Shaw Heath Stockport Cheshire.  
L. Bailey - Rose Cottage Aston Crews Lea Nr Ross-on Wye Hfd's  
R. Bailey - Rose Cottage Aston Crews Lea Nr Ross- on Wye Hfd's  
I. Currie - 45 Eastern Avenue Mitcheldean Glos  
A. Day - 23 Glencairn Avenue Tuffely Glos  
D. Donovan - Lea Villa Caravan Site Chelt Glos  
B. Dunn - 6A Rotunda Terrace Chelt Glos  
J. Elliot - 23 Lansdown Place Chelt Glos  
G. Evans - Ferndean Woodside Avenue West Cinderford Glos  
K. Faull - 22 Victoria Rd Lydney Glos  
P. Francis Denbury Highnam Nr Gloucester  
C. Graham - Nuppead Farm Alvington Lydney Glos  
W. Gregory - Dean Forestry School Parkend Nr Lydney Glos  
J. Hall - Osterley Victoria Street Cinderford Glos  
D. Hay - 10 Park Walk Chase Park Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
J. Hay - 10 Park Walk Chase Park Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
T. Hemms - Oakfield Hawthorne Cross Drybrook Glos  
E. Herbert - 56 Eastern Avenue Mitcheldean Glos  
C. Howe - 12 Victoria Road Lydney Glos  
M. Howell - 14 Woodville Avenue Mile End Nr Coleford Glos  
E. Keane - Hirjath Coalway Coleford Glos  
J. Lewis - Springfield Mansons Cross Monmouth  
R. Miles - 5 Heywood Rd Cinderford Glos  
B. Nelmes - 35 Parkend Rd Bream Nr Lydney Glos  
A. Paton - 9 Orchard Close Mitcheldean Glos  
M. Salmon - 15 Oakhill Rd Court Farm Estate Mitcheldean Glos  
P. Schwarz - 12 South Rd Broadwell Coleford Glos  
P. Simons - 59 Montpellier Terrace Chelt Glos  
R. Simpson - Bouldson Newent Glos  
A. Solari - Fir Tree Bungalow Wigpool Mitcheldean Glos  
R. Solari - Fir Tree Bungalow Wigpool Mitcheldean Glos  
N. Southwick - 49 Havelock Rd Handsworth Birmingham 20  
S. Southwick - 49 Havelock Rd Handsworth Birmingham 20  
P. Standing - 10 Byron Place Clifton Bristol 8  
M. Sterry - 9 Oakhill Rd Court Farm Estate Mitcheldean Glos  
M. Stevenson - c/o York House High Street Mitcheldean Glos  
R. Stewart - 10 Nash & Cox Milkwall Nr Coleford Glos  
D. Tuffley - 1 Parks Rd Mitcheldean Glos  
N. Waghorne - Ministry of Aviation Hostel Geraldine Rd Malvern Worcs  
M. Wheeler - 12 Blake Avenue Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
S. Wheeler - 12 Blake Avenue Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
S.C. Wheeler - 12 Blake Avenue Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
R. Wright - The Bungalow Heywood Rd Cinderford Glos  
T. Wrigley - Ashcroft Walford Rd Ross-on-Wye Hfd's  
G. Yeates - Sundial Edenwall Coleford Glos  
M. Broderick - Roughlea Guest house Porthtowan Cornwall  
G. Stacey -----

## **LIBRARY LIST**

Gloucestershire speleological society journal :-

Volume 2 No 1

“ 3 No 1

“ 3 No 2

“ 4 No 1

Cave research group newsletter No's 84 - 93 - 94 - 95 - 96 - 97 - 98 - 99.

Speleo Rahl caving club journal

Hereford caving club journal No's 14 - 15 - 16.

British speleological association bulletin No's 69.

British Nylon Spinners Speleological Society Journal. 1959.

Journal of Craven Pothole club. Volume - 3. No. 4.

University College of Swansea Caving Club Journal. No. 1.

Pengelly Cave Research Centre Newsletter. No's 1 & 2.

University of Bristol Speleological Society Proceedings. Volume. 2. No. 1

Mendip Rescue Organisation Report. 1966.

Council of southern Caving Clubs Handbook. 1966.

Cambrian Caving Conference Minutes. 1965.

Bi-Annual Cave Rescue Conference . 1965. Buxton.

Cave Rescue Council Minutes.

British Nylon Spinners Speleological society A G M Minutes. 1965

Joint Kitnor Cave - Buckfastliegh.

List of Caves and Speleological Sites in the Forest of Dean area. 1965 - Standing.

Comparison of Synthetic Ropes Suitable for Caving. J H Hartwell.

Greenbottom Water Supply - Trow Ditch Mine Level. 1903.

Practical Shot Firing - National Coal Board.

Bats - Blackmore.

Observer Colour Supplement July 17<sup>th</sup> 1966 - Dan-yr-Ogof.

Ordnance Survey Map Catalogue - 1967.

Iron Making in the Olden Times - 1856 - Nichols

Awards to the Dean Forest Miners - Extract - 1840.

Special Report on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain, Forest of Dean and South Wales - 1926 - T F Sibly.

Geology of the County around Monmouth and Chepstow - 1942 - Trotter.

Cowley Manor Notes on the local Geology - Dreghorn.

British Fossils - Williams.

Geology of Glos - Extract.

Elements of Dowsing - A H Bell.

Iron Making in the Forest of Dean - 1925 - Extract.

Forest Iron Ore Industry - Watkins.

Geological Survey Museum Sectional List - No 45 - H M S O.

Gloucestershire - A Study in Local Government - 1590 - 1640.

The Poor in Mitcheldean - University of Bristol.

Studies in Dean History - University Of Bristol.

### **Iron Mine Maps**

Wigpool Iron Mine

Easter Iron Mine

Old Ham & New Dunn Iron Ore Mines

Westbury Brook Iron Mine

### **Cave Surveys**

Symonds Yat 4

Cursits Cave

Agen Allwed

Swildons No. 1

Lancaster Hole

Shakespears

Stump Cross Caverns - Gill Hole

Stoke Lane Slocker

Map of the Forest of Dean - Sop with - 1835.

6 inch Ordnance Survey Maps of the Forest of Dean Limestone.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAVE REGISTRY**

**Registrar's Rough Sheet**

Name ( s ). :-

Type of site :-

1 inch Map No :-

2.5 inch Map No :-

N G R :-

Owner and Tennant of Land :-

Restrictions on Access :-

Position of Entrance :-

Description :-

Bibliography :-

Survey :-

Date of Compilation :-

Compiler :-

Any Other Information :-