

WILLIAM PENGELLY CAVE STUDIES TRUST LIMITED



NEWSLETTER

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b) Council : The following members of Council retired after a three year term of office and were nominated by Council to serve for a further three years.

Mr S Lawrence, Mr W Joint, Prof P Boylan, Mrs A Longman, Mr F Vowler, Mr D Curry and Dr R Cooper.

These were passed by the meeting.

c) It was proposed by R Cawthorne and seconded by P Boylan that Dr A Andrews be elected to serve a three year term of office. This was passed by the meeting.

(Article 36 requiring that one third of Council is elected annually has been complied with)

d) Auditor: Council proposed that Messrs Geoffrey L Johnson & Co, Chartered Accountants of Plymouth Devon, be appointed as auditors of the Trust for the forthcoming year. This was passed by the meeting.

9) Motions. No motions to the AGM were received by the Trust secretary.

10) Any other business.

a) Scientific Co-ordinator's report
Mrs Longman listed the activities taking place:

- i) Blind Cave Fish
- ii) Shrimp studies
- iii) Cave Spiders
- iv) Stalactite growth measurements
- v) Ostracod studies
- vi) Bat population and movement
- vii) Quarry flora count
- viii) Eemian garden establishment
- ix) Impact of landfill sites.

It was agreed that a report slot from the Scientific Co-ordinator be included in future AGM agenda.

b) The Secretary drew the meeting's attention to the comment in his report about the need for new and active recruits.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.

R Cawthorne. Hon Secretary

28.8.92

MATIENZO 1992

The 22nd Manchester University expedition to Matienzo in Northern Spain took place this summer. Julie Lloyd and I joined 40+ others who made their annual pilgrimage to the site where caves are found faster than they are explored. The total of known entrances topped 900 this year and around 11 km of passages were added to the tally.

I ventured for the first time past a 'Y' hang on SRT in what seemed like a huge open pitch but which was in reality only about 80ft. This was in the Torca de Mostajo, renowned for the rowan tree in the entrance (Mostajo = Rowan tree or Mountain Ash). The passages at the bottom were mainly huge, dry and sandy with some very spectacular helictites.

We had a visit to Cueva Riano, where surveying proved that last year's discoveries were not discoveries at all and someone had merely mistaken a duck for the terminal sump. This cave has a fine section of cascading streamway.

A day was spent digging to no avail at Cueva de Arenal, site of one of the biggest drafts blowing out of a cave in the area.

PENRECCA MINE
BUCKFASTLEIGH, DEVON

A scientific day was spent visiting a series of caves and taking core samples of the silts and deposits. These will be tested for magnetic resonance in an attempt to look for correlation and hence deductions of the speleogenesis.

My cousin and I spent an afternoon in Cueva de Risco, an extensive system which is little visited nowadays. We found perhaps 100m including some fine formations.

A return trip to one of my favourite caves, Cubio de la Renada (Lair of the Fox) was spent surveying one of the more complex areas at the end of 'Sanatogen' passage, an area of low crawls and sandy floors breaking into a sloping phreatic maze.

Others found passages by the kilometer in Fresnedo II & Regaton.

The year's expedition was tragically saddened by the death of one of the Red Rose CPC members, Giles Barker, in Torca de Azpilicueta. He took a bypass route to rejoin his colleagues as his camera equipment box was too bulky for the route they took. On the way he slipped and fell down a blind 20m shaft.

The rescue was carried out by five teams of English expedition members supported by a dozen from the Spanish Cave Rescue teams. The cooperation between the English cavers and the Spanish authorities was really very good and enabled the recovery to take place with the minimum of distress.

To the Red Rose CPC and Giles' family, we add our condolences.

Bob Cawthorne

It is not widely known that the Staverton Estate just outside Totnes draws the majority of its Estate water from the old mine adit which runs from the quarries at Penn and emerges in the woods above Lower Coombe. This water is used for domestic and agricultural purposes and with the increasing standards expected of private water systems it has become essential to control and to a large measure prevent access to the quarry tunnels, in order to be able to guarantee the purity of the water. It is a particular concern to prevent urination and defecation with their obvious health hazards.

Within a few weeks therefore both the entrance at Penn and Lower Coombe will be blocked off using grids which will still permit the free flow of air and bats.

We, as Managers for the Church Commissioners for England, are also concerned that increasing numbers of groups are making use of the caves as of right and not all of these groups are led by suitably qualified personnel. We therefore propose that access should be restricted to one named Caving Society only which will be locally based and responsible to us for all use of the caves by cavers.

The quarry tunnels are on the Church Commissioners' Staverton Estate managed by Cluttons of Bath. Any queries should be raised with Paul Smalley at Cluttons whose telephone number is 0225 447575.

