

DIGS AND DISCOVERY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Don Searle and I decided to take caving gear with us on our holiday to Yugoslavia in August. After visiting a number of show caves we came into contact with some British cavers, who were staying in the National Park. There were contingents from Manchester University C. C., Leicester University Speleos and White Rose P. C. We seemed to make closest acquaintance with some enthusiastic members from Leicester who offered their assistance in digging near The Great Natural Bridge, at a crack which Don thought would go with very little work. If it did go there was a possibility of entering over a mile of cave containing the river Rak. In an atmosphere of excitement we set out at 10 p.m. The first site at the crack was soon cleared and indicated that a great deal of work would be needed to make progress. By this time another dig was under way nearby and this showed more promise. However by midnight we considered that this, too, would require a lot of work, so we packed in. That evening the Leicester party asked if we would like to join them to explore a newly found shaft on the morrow.

Next day we reached the shaft with a Yugoslav caver called Andre and accompanied by Bob Fowell, Pete Wardle, Chris Thomas, Nev Taylor, Martin Parham (and Pete Holm who was ill and looked after affairs at the top) we proceeded to descend it. The shaft was some 80 feet deep and broken by two ledges. At the bottom we found ourselves in a high rift. When I got off the ladder I spotted some large bones, a skull and a jaw with a big canine tooth. From then on much discussion ensued as to whether it was wolf, bear, or boar; the second choice being mine. A partly blocked squeeze at the lowest point was attacked by Pete who was soon through. After a few feet a tricky climb followed by a thirty-foot pitch. The dig success was a great surprise to Andre who soon became even more amazed to hear that there was yet another pitch of about 20' to follow. This was a very nice one - quite round with some stalactites hanging from the roof. Our tether point was a cluster of stalagmites. At the bottom we found a small chamber leading to a high rift; one hole in the floor went down 10' and a draft was reported but we could make no further progress. Don, Bob and I then surveyed the pot.

Malcolm Cotter.

COUNTY CLARE.

6
Nine members of the Club, and two Manchester cavers who joined up with us, spent an enjoyable fortnight near Lisdoonvarna. For the first week we camped just a few hundred yards down the road from Pollnagollum, but after a particularly wet night which resulted in mild flooding of the campsite we moved to a nearby cottage. In spite of the attractions of local beaches and comfortable peat fires some caving was done, details of which will be appearing at a later date. Suffice it to say that Simon, Joan, Pete and Del got 'orribly lost down Fisher Street, and Joan nearly got eaten alive by a huge brown eel in the stream in Aille's Tributaries.

The main weejee events were a trip by five of us to the Aran Islands, and a detour on the journey home which enabled us to see the Lakes of Killarny and Cork.