

Secretaries Report

I took over as temporary Cambrian Caving Council Secretary in early December 2017, just in time to get involved with Ogof Draenen and the Twll Ddu problem. Due to location of Twll Ddu, both Cadw and NRW being the statutory bodies were involved. Cadw were not impressed that persons unknown had created a hole in the side of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it was obvious that cavers were involved and they wanted answers, this involved Stuart France and myself in a number of phone calls and emails, to try and calm things down.

The result was a site meeting at Twll Ddu with all the various bodies involved, followed by a smaller meeting of the main bodies, this meeting resolved to discourage cavers from using Twll Ddu, arrange for a Bat survey and for CCC and PDCMG to produce a joint statement on Twll Ddu. Sue Mabbett of PDCMG and myself duly produced the statement which was published as widely as possible in the caving press.

As far as it is known at present, cavers are not using Twll Ddu.

One positive outcome of engaging with Cadw was that both sides got to know each other. Cadw explained to us that they have a problem inspecting their various underground structures due to safety and Insurance issues, we were able to point out that we don't have those problems and that we were willing to assist where possible, they are interested in using our skills.

Geocaching has been in the caving news recently, this is something we need to keep an eye on, one geocache is in/under a Scheduled Ancient Monument, another is in a cave. I feel that to place a geocache at the entrance to a cave/mine is fine, but they should not be placed underground.

Keeping in touch with the members of CCC is made more difficult when people change email address, roles, or simply don't pass on information. Can I please ask that clubs report email address changes as soon as possible.

I am willing to stand as Secretary for the next year.

Allan Richardson