

Cambrian Caving Council

NEWSLETTER

OCT/NOV 2001

NO. 4/ 2001-4

COMING SOON A LECTURE FOR CAVERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY: -

BENEATH THE SWANSEA VALLEY

Location - Copper Beech Inn, Abercraf, Swansea Valley

Date – Saturday 10th November 2001

Time – 8.00pm

Two presentations

Dan Yr Ogof – The Cave and It's Exploration

Slides and talk by Liam Kealy

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu – The Cave and It's Exploration

Video and talk by Clive Gardener with update on recent exploration from a local caver

A SECOND LECTURE FOR CAVERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY: -

Advance notice of a lecture to take place in the Crickhowell on Saturday 9th February 2002. The lecture will have presentations on caves of the Llangatwg Escarpment.

Note - There is no entry fee for either of these lectures. The costs will be covered by CCC funds including funding from Sports Council of Wales as part of CCC and SCW objective to increase awareness in the sport of caving to local communities.

Protection of Children in Caving Activities

The National Caving Association and Cambrian Caving Council have a commitment to protect children taking part in the activity of caving. This is a requirement of the Sports Councils who fund the NCA and CCC. In fact one of the conditions for CCC to receive funding from the Sports Council for Wales (our national Sports Council) is that we have Child Protection policy. This policy was agreed at our 2001 AGM. The NCA are also required to have a Child Protection policy to enable them to receive funding from UK Sport and Sport England.

As part of trying to generate a suitable policy and provide information to the Sports Councils the NCA have sent out a questionnaire, a copy is enclosed with this News Letter. The NCA would be grateful if your Club could complete this questionnaire and send it back to Dave Judson.

The CCC committee would also be very grateful if you could as CCC members return a copy of your completed questionnaire to Sue Mabbett, address at the end. This will enable us to provide accurate information to SCW as part of future applications for grant funding. We believe for liability and insurance reasons most Clubs do not allow those under 18 to be members, we would be grateful if we could verify this fact by having completed questionnaires from it's member Clubs.

Foot and Mouth Disease – Status for October 01

Good News the Brecon Beacons and neighbouring areas are opening up and there is now access to the following caves and areas.

- Ogof Ffynnon Ddu is open all entrances
- Pant Mawr Pot is open, with access from Penwyllt only
- The Mynydd Ddu (the Black Mountain, above Swansea valley) is open, therefore access to Pwll Dwfn, Tunnel Cave top entrance and the dig sites and caves on the Mynydd Ddu.
- Public Footpaths around Penwyllt (SWCC HQ) and across Pant Mawr.
- SWCC HQ at Penwyllt
- Caves on Forest Enterprise land in the Forest of Dean including Big Sink

Unfortunately the following caves and areas remain closed

- Ogof Draenen
- Mynydd Llangatwg, including Agen Allwedd, Daren Cilau, Eglwys Faen, etc.
- Footpaths in Central Beacons (Pen-y-Fan, etc), Blorenge, Mynydd Llangatwg.
- CSS Cottage, Whitewalls
- Caves on farmland in the Forest of Dean including Wet Sink and Redhouse.

Generally all other areas in the Cambrian Caving region are open this includes the Gower, Pembrokeshire, Cardiff area, North Wales, the Marches. As suggested in previous Newsletters the best location to find up to date information is to be found on the following websites: -

- ❖ Caving.org.uk: www.caving.org.uk
- ❖ Descent: www.caving.uk.com
- ❖ NCA: www.nca.org.uk

Access To Porth Yr Ogof

Porth Yr Ogof is open to groups of cavers. These groups must be pre-booked with the BBNP warden. Elsie Little has contact details for the warden and procedure; Elsie's details are at the end.

Cambrian Caving Council General Meeting Sept 01

This meeting broke away from recent tradition and moved location to North Wales. The meeting was held in the Colomendy Outdoor Centre, near Mold. My thanks go to Grosvenor CC and North Wales CC who took on the task of organising the location and offering trips for those interested. My special thanks go to Stephen Brown who found the location for us, organised the trips to Milwr Tunnel and acted as host all weekend. My thanks also go to Barry Johnstone who acted as the link person with the CCC committee, booking the accommodation and camping. As always cavers made last minute arrangements, fortunately the Colomendy Centre took this in their stride as numbers changed almost daily. A number of cavers from the Forest of Dean came up to North Wales and took advantage of the offered trips. In total nine caving clubs were represented at the meeting although not quite significantly more Clubs than have appeared for the last two general meetings. I think the experiment to use a new location worked and I believe we should look at another area of the Cambrian Caving Council region for next years General Meeting, Forest of Dean or the Gower are possibilities.

The meeting was kept relatively short (under two and half hours), most CCC officers and representatives had issued reports before the meeting. Early issue of reports meant only queries from these reports took time in the meeting. The important issue of the Cambrian Cave Registry was discussed in some detail with a new constitution being reviewed; during this review questions were raised as to why the Cambrian Cave Registry was not part of the CCC function. After some discussion, the final conclusion of those present was the Cambrian Cave Registry should be part of the function of the Cambrian Caving Council with possibly a register officer as a member of the executive committee. To achieve this aim the CCC constitution will require some changes. The CCC committee will now be working on these required changes before the AGM in 2002. For further details of the discussions see the General Meeting Minutes.

CAVES REQUIRING PERMIT, KEY OR LEADER

A new information sheet as committee's change and information is lost. There are a few minor updates on the sheet since last published in 2000. Note some of these caves are closed due to F&M.

Cave	Area	Contact Address	Information
Croes Bleddyn Swallet	Forest of Dean	R.F.D.C.C. c/o John Hine, The Grottage 2, Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford, Glos, GL16 7OF	Please send written request, stating preferred date for trip, enclose a sae.
Itton North Swallet	Forest of Dean	Dave Hardwick, Kerith Cottage, Heath End, Cromhall, Wotton Under Edge, GL12 8AS	Please send written request, stating preferred date for trip, enclose a sae.
Otter Hole	Wye Valley	John Hutchinson, 4 Redwood Close, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 5RJ	The cave is currently closed due to potential pollution problems. When re-opened contact John with a list of suggested dates and party size limited to 5 + leader.
Big Sink	Forest of Dean	Paul Taylor, 9, Massey Road, Gloucester, GL1 4LG, e mail paultaylor@redhousefod.freemove.co.uk	Please send written request, stating preferred date for trip, enclose a sae.
Wet Sink (Slaughter Stream Cave)	Forest of Dean	Andy Clarke, Sunshade Cottage, Lower Redbrook, Monmouth Gwent, NP5 4LZ	Please send written request, stating preferred date for trip, enclose a sae. Currently closed due to F&M.
Redhouse Lane Swallet	Forest of Dean	Paul Taylor, 9, Massey Road, Gloucester, GL1 4LG, e mail paultaylor@redhousefod.freemove.co.uk	Please send written request, stating preferred date for trip, enclose a sae. This cave is generally closed in winter due to high water levels. Currently closed due to F&M.
Ogof Carno	Clydach Gorge	Please phone on of the following:- Charles Bailey 01873 811662, Chris Brady 01873 858451, Phil Coles 01495 301265, Dave Crompton 01685 370504, Brent Durban 01495 312525, John Jones 01443 875123, Huw Jones 01685 841946, or Ian Wilton Jones 01495 791282.	
Ogof Craig-a-Ffynnon	Clydach Gorge	Jeff Hill, 9 York Avenue, Garden City, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP23 8OS	Send s.a.e, list preferred dates for trip.
Ogof Draenen	Clydach Gorge	Sue Mabbett, 2, Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF	Send s.a.e and date for planned trip. Access available to members of <i>bona fide</i> caving clubs, this is defined as clubs, which are members of a regional council, BCRA or similar body. Currently closed due to F&M.
Agen Allwedd	Llangattock Escarpment	Lynne Bailey, Hafod Swn-y-Dwr, The Dardy, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1PU e-mail cpb@efacs.com	Send s.a.e, list date for planned trip. Permit/key available to members of <i>bona fide</i> caving clubs, as defined above. Maximum party size is 6, age limits apply.
Ogof Gwaliau Gwynion	Llangattock Escarpment	C.S.S. Cottage, Whitewalls, Llangattock	Key available from cottage (in theory, nobody has been down this 'dig' for sometime).
Pant Mawr Pot	Ystradfellte	Sue Mabbett, 2, Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF e-mail suemabbett@hotmail.com	Permission available from SWCC HQ at weekends, for mid-week access contact Sue Mabbett.
Cwm Dwr Quarry Cave 2	Swansea Valley	South Wales Caving, 1-10 Powell Street, Pen-y-Cae, Swansea, SA9 1GQ	Key available from SWCC HQ at weekends, for mid-week contact Sue Mabbett.
Dan Yr Ogof	Swansea Valley	Elsie Little, Hennoyadd Villa, Hennoyadd Road, Abercraf, Swansea, SA9 1VR	The party must be with a Dan Yr Ogof Conservation Warden, contact Elsie for details on how to become a warden.
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu II	Swansea Valley	See Sue Mabbett as above.	Send s.a.e, list date for planned key/key available to members of <i>bona fide</i> caving clubs, as defined above. Maximum party size is 6.
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I	Swansea Valley	Leslie Davies, Brynn Cerdd, Cae Hopkin, Abercraf, Swansea, SA9 1TS	The party must be led by a recognised OFD I leader. To become OFD I leader must be recommended by your Club and a current OFD I leader.
Tunnel Cave	Swansea Valley	See Sue Mabbett as above	Key available from SWCC HQ at weekends, for mid-week contact Sue Mabbett.
Llethrid Swallet	Gower	See Sue Mabbett as above	Key from SWCC HQ at weekends, for other key holders contact Sue Mabbett. Access to final chamber currently blocked needs serious digging activity.
Tooth Cave	Gower	See Sue Mabbett as above	Must be members of a caving club with BCRA insurance, key from SWCC HQ.

Cambrian Caving Council Library

For those who regularly read the Newsletter, you will be aware that we are trying to move the journals and books held by CCC into a publicly accessible place. The CCC Chairman is currently discussing options with the Blaenavon library. In the meantime the 'CCC library' resides at the home of Sue Mabbett.

I do not have the time to issue reviews or to summarise the contents of the journals I receive; however I do record the journals I receive. I am willing to send out to Cambrian Member Clubs any of these journals on a strictly loan basis with costs covered by the borrowing Club.

Below is a summary of the Clubs who kindly send journals to CCC and a list of journals I have received since taking over as secretary. For some clubs I hold further journals given to me by Frank Baguley, this includes the UBSS proceedings and Red Dragon.

Issuing Club/Organisation	Name of Journal	Summary of Holding
BCRA	Caves & Caving	No. 86 (Winter 99) – No. 90 (Spring/Summer 01)
Cambrian Caving Council	Red Dragon (Y Ddraig Goch)	Red Dragon No. 26 and No. 27
Cave Diving Group	CDG Newsletter	No. 135 (Apr 00)– No. 141 (Oct 01)
Chelsea Speleological Soc.	CSS Newsletter	Vol. 42, No. 3 (Mar 00) – Vol. 43 No. 8/9 (Aug/Sept 01)
Derbyshire Caving Assoc.	The Derbyshire Caver	No. 105 (Spring 00) – No. 110 (Summer 01)
Descent	Descent	No. 153 (April 00)– No. 158 (Feb 01)
Grosvenor CC	GCC Newsletter	No. 101 (Feb 00) – No. 114 (Sept 01)
Hereford CC	HCC Circular	Vol. 3 Issue 2 (Mar 00) – Vol. 4 Issue 5 (Sept 01)
Mendip Caving Group	MCG News	No. 279 (May 99) - No. 300 (Aug 01)
Orpheus CC	OCC Newsletter	Vol. 35 No. 9/10 (Sept/Oct 99) – Vol. 36 No. 11/12 (Nov/Dec 00)
Royal Forest of Dean CC	RoFDCC Newsletter	No. 124 (Feb 00) - No. 126 (Mar 01)
South Wales CC	SWCC Newsletter	No. 120 ('99) , No. 121 ('00)
University of Bristol Speleo Soc.	UBSS Proceedings	Vol. 21, No. 3 ('99) – Vol. 22, No. 1 (00)
Wessex CC	WCC Journal	Vol. 25, No. 268 to Vol. 26, No. 276
Westminster Speleo Group	WSG Cave Exploration and Investigation Newsletter	No. 2001 to No. 2003
Welsh Mines Preservation Trust	Welsh Mines Preservation Trust Newsletter	Apr 00, July 00, Apr 01
William Pengelly Trust	William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust Newsletter	No. 79 (Spring '00) – No. 83 (Autumn '01)
Tony Oldham	The British Caver	Vol. 124 (Spring 01)

CAN ANYONE HELP JOHN WITH THIS INVESTIGATION ?

John Hine from RFDCC has found the following record :-

“26 March 1319 (CR12 EDW 11) 12 Miners were ordered to be sent to work the iron mines of Hugh le Despenser the Younger in Glamorgan.”

The miners were Free Miners from the Royal Forest of Dean. John wants to find out which iron mines the Free Miners from the Forest were sent to ? There are a number of iron mines in Glamorgan including those close to me in Lesser Garth Hill just north of Cardiff, but which ancient mines under the control of Hugh Despenser in 1319 ?

Note I was given this question by John in March 01 so I apologise for the time it has taken to put this item in the newsletter. John's address is in the cave access details sheet.



- As Foot and Mouth cases diminish it is hoped the planned training of in placement of Eco-Anchor will take place in November. Adrian will be in contact with those involved directly.

CCC Subscriptions

There are only a few clubs who have still not paid their CCC subscriptions, please pay up soon. For these Clubs there is a final, final reminder with this Newsletter.

CCC/NCA/BCRA Meetings and Events

9th March 2002 BCRA Cave Science Symposium

10th March 2002 CCC AGM, Gwesty Bach, Brynmawr

5-8th July 2002 NAMHO 2002 Conference, University of Wales, Aberystwyth

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: -	Mr R O Clarke (Owen) Tel. 01495 773175 e-mail owen.clarke@welshcdg.org 11, Pentwyn Heights, Abersychan, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 7TN
Secretary:-	Miss S A Mabbett (Sue) Tel. 029 20844558 e-mail suemabbett@hotmail.com 2, Garth Close Morganstown Cardiff, CF15 8LF
Treasurer :-	Mr C Owen (Clive) Tel. 01179 732433 e-mail cliveowen@tesco.net 17, Normanton Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2TY
Conservation & Access Officer	Mrs E Little (Elsie) Tel 01639 730331 e-mail elsie@abercrave.fsnet.co.uk Hennoyadd Villa, Hennoyadd Road, Abercraf, Swansea, SA9 1VR
Equipment Officer	Mr A Fawcett (Adrian) Tel. 01495 763130 e-mail adrianf@dial.pipex.com 5, Ambryn Road, New Inn, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 0NJ
Training Officer	Mr E Hoole (Eric) Tel. 01497 847400 e-mail c/o_Joyce@powys.gov.uk 3, Gwernyfed Ave, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0RT

FINAL COMMENTS

I apologise this Newsletter is late due to the CCC secretary being new mum. For those not present at the General Meeting Emily Anne arrived 3 weeks early on 31st August, her first trip away from home was to North Wales for the CCC General Meeting. Although I hasten to add she spent a quiet evening in the pub with her Dad and not suffering 2 hours of a CCC meeting.

I have received Martyn Farr's new book 'Underground Wales' for review, as I am finding my time limited, is there a volunteer to read the book and produce a review? The book looks at many undergrounds caverns of Wales including caves, iron mines, coalmines, slate mines, etc. Any volunteers phone Sue.

I am circulating the Newsletter by both mail and e-mail so that the Newsletter can be circulated to Caving Club members, if your Club is not receiving the Newsletter by e-mail then I either have no e-mail address for your Club or an out of date e-mail address. Phone me if you are not receiving the e-mail version of the Newsletter and wish to do so.

Sue Mabbett, 29th October '01.