

CCC Secretary's report to the 2019 AGM

The year has seen the on-going saga of Ogof Draenen and Twll Du take several new twists and turns. Due to the unwillingness on the part of Cadw to engage with us to agree a community settlement, as recommended by the Gwent Police, we had to withdraw from negotiations in May 2018 with regret after our offer to fund a gated caver entrance, also providing access for bats at all times, was turned down by Cadw: it seemed they were only wanting our support for concreting it up completely. This went ahead during October 2018 despite a bat professional providing Cadw with a report showing that bats were recorded using the Twll Du entrance in September.

The consequence was a Police investigation, but the CPS has decided recently that insufficient evidence exists to show that a bat roost existed in that part of the cave. So the case has been dropped.

Other than this, it has been fairly quiet year with the usual general enquiries on a range of subjects and meetings to attend.

I am willing to stand for a further year as Secretary.

R. Allan Richardson

Secretary