

# Cambrian Caving Council

## NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2002

NO. 2/ 2002-2

### NEWS ON PERMITS FOR CAVES

- **Ogof Ffynnon Ddu** – At the last OFD Management Meeting it was agreed to accept e-mail requests for permits. Requests should be sent to [suemabbett@hotmail.com](mailto:suemabbett@hotmail.com). Please note e-mails to this address are generally only checked weekly. As for a written permit request, the e-mail request must include the Caving Club name, the date(s) for the permit and the approximate number of cavers. Please avoid using club logos of large byte size, the hotmail account has a size limit and deletes e-mails once the limit is reached. The number of cavers is required so I can estimate how many 'parties' there will be, a caving party is limited to six cavers including the leader, we encourage smaller rather than larger party sizes. The permit will be sent to you as a MS-word document, if you are unable to open a document in this format please make a note in your e-mail request.
- **Ogof Draenen**- A reminder that e-mail requests may also be accepted for Ogof Draenen also at [suemabbett@hotmail.com](mailto:suemabbett@hotmail.com). Again, e-mails to this address are generally only checked weekly. The request needs to include the name of the club and the date of the planned trip, please avoid using club logos of large byte size; the hotmail account has a size limit and deletes e-mails once limit is reached. The code of conduct for entry to Ogof Draenen will be sent as a MS-word document. So again, if you are unable to open MS-word documents please inform me.

**For both these caves there is no upper limit on number parties /groups per a weekend so request months in advance are not necessary, although a phone call to check I have sent /e-mailed your permit to you are sometimes helpful.**

### OGOF FFYNNON DDU REPORT FROM MANAGEMENT MEETING

There are a number of Fixed Aids in OFD, these are checked regularly by the Fixed Aids Officer. This includes items such as the Maypole bridge and the step to assist in climbing out of Maypole inlet, a full list of the Fixed Aids is displayed in the SWCC cottages at Penwyllt. These items are generally tagged as being 'official fixed aids'. At the meeting it was reported there are other 'fixed aids' in the cave in the form of 8mm spits, bolts or ropes hanging on climbs. These have been placed by cavers for exploration purposes, rescue purposes or for 'SRT' routes. These 'fixed aids' are not checked by the Fixed Aids Officer and no information on their status or location is supplied.

**The cavers in the cave must check the integrity and safety of any fixed aid before using it whether this be a ladder, chain, bolt, spit or other item. This applies to all caves not only Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.**

### Annual Subscriptions

The following CCC subscriptions apply for Mar 2002 to Mar 2003: -

<b>Club membership of Cambrian Caving Council (this includes Newsletter)</b>	<b>£9</b>
<b>Club Membership of National Caving Association</b>	<b>£12</b>
<b>Newsletter only</b>	<b>£4</b>

You have until 31<sup>st</sup> August to pay after that date I will assume your Club no longer exists or it no longer wishes to be a member of Cambrian Council (and NCA if applicable).



A reminder of where there are eco-anchors placed in caves of the Cambrian region, this includes Wales and the Forest of Dean.

Ogof Draenen	Indiana Highway traverse	5
	Balcony Pitch	3
	Spare Rib rope climb	3
Agen Allwedd	Keyhole Chamber	4
Llanelly Quarry Pot	Entrance Rift	1
	Main Pitch	4
Jackdaw Quarry Pot	Main Pitch	1
Slaughter Stream Cave	Wet Sink pitches	6
Ogof Hen Ffynhonnau	Entrance pitch	2
	Main pitch	2
Pant Mawr Pot	Entrance pitch	4
Lesser Garth Cave	Pitch and traverse	3
Pwll Dwfn	First pitch	Complete*
	Second pitch	Complete*
	Third pitch	Complete*
	Fourth pitch	Complete*
	Fifth Pitch	Complete*

\*Eco-anchor placement in Pwll Dwfn is now complete; unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain a rigging guide or other details. I will follow up on this my intention is a complete rigging topo will in the next newsletter.

### Eco-Anchor Safety Checks

*All anchors should be checked before use. When checking before use, the physical check should be a twisting motion of the anchor using the fingers, while observing any movement. Slight flexing or rotational movement (+/-1mm) of the anchor may be noticed, this is acceptable.*

*The following points should be checked before using or loading the anchors:*

- 1. Grooves of abrasive areas within the inside of the outer curvature of the anchor. E.g. the inside contact area of the anchor.*
- 2. Excessive rotation of the resin within the drilled hole.*
- 3. Rotation of the anchor within the resin.*
- 4. Fracturing of the rock within 20cm. of the anchor placement.*
- 5. Egress of the anchor from the resin or the resin from the drilled hole.*

*Les Sykes, CNCC secretary, CNCC Technical Group.*

In event of finding a potential Eco-Anchor fault in the Cambrian Region please contact the CCC Equipment Officer and he will contact one of the cavers trained in eco-anchor placement.

## Hidden earth 2002

Hidden Earth is coming to the Cambrian Region, on the borders between South Wales and the Forest of Dean. Hidden Earth, the BCRA National Conference, will be at Monmouth Leisure Centre on 27-29<sup>th</sup> September 2002. To make a booking phone Wendy Williams, 01749 679839 or e-mail [bookings@hidden-earth.org.uk](mailto:bookings@hidden-earth.org.uk). There will be as usual Trade Hall, SRT Races, presentations and lectures, photo salon, evening conference dinner, Stomp and bar, etc. Camping is available close to the conference centre.

## Cave Instructors Based in the Cambrian Region

Eric Hoole will be organising a Cambrian Caving Council training event during 20002/2003 however in the meantime: - Your Club may wish to organise or do organise their own training events for their Club members. Below is a list of Cave Instructors based in the region, which you may wish to use for a Club training event.

- ☒ Eric Hoole - 3, Gwernyfed, Three Cocks, Brecon, LD3 0SG Tel 01497 847400
  - ☒ Dave Ludlam – c/o Storey Arms OEC, Libanus, Brecon
  - ☒ Juliet Parker Smith – Keri, Glasbury on Wye, Hereford, HR3 5NT Tel 01497 847214
  - ☒ Pete Blackburn – Plas Pencelli OEC, Pencelli, Brecon, LD3 7L
  - ☒ Dena Procter – Rhos y Gwaliau OEC, Bala, Gwynedd Tel 01490 440208
  - ☒ Des Marshall, Pant Styllen Pene Groes Machynlleth, SY20 8UW 01654 702691
  - ☒ Tom Peacock – c/o Storey Arms OEC, Libanus, Brecon
  - Richard Hill – 38, Warren Close, Hay on Wye, HR3 5EL Tel 01497 820739
  - Andy Lewington - Trewern OEC, Cusop, Hereford. Tel 01497 820512
- ☒ These are trainer assessors for the Local Leader scheme.

## Conservation of ‘Unadopted Caves’

A reminder, the Cambrian Caving Council Conservation and Access Officer, Elsie Little holds a supply of conservation tape and pegs for use in those caves that do not receive funding from other sources. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu for example is maintained by SWCC on behalf Countryside Council for Wales.

Other caves such as Little Neath River Cave, Chartist Cave or Wet Sink Cave are not funded in the same way so if you know of any parts of these caves or others that could do with a little taping then contact Elsie for a supply. Please only place tape in areas, which do not flood, our local CDG members would not be impressed if we fill cave sumps with glowing orange tape.

## UPDATES FROM OF NCA MEETING

### • Underground Britain

As reported in the March/April 02 Newsletter the NCA AGM agreed to a postal ballot to determine if caving clubs supported the motion: -

*“Do you agree to NCA using the document “UNDERGROUND BRITAIN” as the basis for detailed negotiations with relevant parties to seek to create a “one stop shop” for all underground explorers”*

The postal ballot has taken place and the vote was in favour of this proposal. A ‘hub’ team is now progressing towards making ‘Underground Britain’ and the ‘one stop shop’ a reality.

### • Caver Insurance

There was postal vote on whether the NCA should take on providing an insurance service for cavers and caving clubs in the UK to cavers and caving clubs. Currently BCRA provide this insurance service, in addition DCA provide an alternative scheme currently. This proposal on insurance also included an additional proposal that insurance should be part of the membership to NCA; this is in readiness for the Underground Britain introduction. The postal ballot was in favour of both proposals.

BCRA, DCA and NCA representatives are now working together to determine insurance requirements for cavers and to find identify an insurance provider to meet the requirements. The aim is to bring all schemes together and to ensure the new scheme meets our (cave and mine explorers) requirements at a reasonable cost.

## Update Places for Cavers to Stay In The Cambrian Region

Information first issued July 00 Newsletter. Most of the information has been taken from Caving Club websites; I believe the information is accurate, as I know most of those listed, but this no guarantee. If you are looking at this list in 2004 or beyond then I suggest you check the web site.

Place and Location	Cost per person	Max No.	Booking Address	Booking e-mail, booking telephone, club website	Comments / Caves
Chelsea Speleological Society Whitewalls Llangattock Nr Crickhowell	£3.00 per night	10	J Stevens 14, Kiln Close, Hermitage Thatcham, Newbury Berks, RG18 9TQ	<a href="mailto:john@medleighs.swinternet.co.uk">john@medleighs.swinternet.co.uk</a>  hut.warden@chelseaspelaeo.org.uk	Agen Allwed, Daren Cilau, Eglwys Faen
Croydon Caving Club Godre Pentre Ystradfellte Nr Aberdare	£3.00 per night	15	Chris Crowley 19, Wolesley Road LONDON, W4 5EG	Tel. 020 8995 3219 <a href="mailto:Cottage@CroydonCavingClub.org.uk">Cottage@CroydonCavingClub.org.uk</a>	Little Neath River Cave, Bridge Cave, Porth yr Ogof
Pwll Ddu Adventure Centre	£40 for the centre per night	None Stated	Cheryl Bullock, The Wilderness Centre, Mitcheldean, Glos. GL17 0HA	Tel 0.1594 542551 <a href="mailto:wilderness@blueyonder.co.uk">wilderness@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	Owned by Gloucester Youth Service Ogof Draenen
Royal Forest of Dean, Christchurch Campsite Bracelends Drive, Christchurch Coleford, Glos. GL16 7NN	£3.20 adult, £1.30 junior	None	Royal Forest of Dean, Christchurch Campsite Bracelends Drive, Christchurch Coleford, Glos. GL16 7NN	Tel. 01594 833376	No caver cottages in the Forest but this campsite is close to Wet Sink and Red House. It has limitless hot water in the showers very useful for cold and muddy cavers. Closed end Dec to mid March.
South Wales Caving Club 1-10, Powell Street Penwyllt, Pen-y-Cae Swansea, SA9 1GQ	£3.50 £2.50 for students	18	Hywel Davies 15, Halland Road Cheltenham Glos, GL53 0DJ	<a href="mailto:Hywel.davies@orange.co.uk">Hywel.davies@orange.co.uk</a> Tel . 01242 243235 <a href="http://www.anat.ucl.ac.uk/external/swcc/homepage">www.anat.ucl.ac.uk/external/swcc/homepage</a>	Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Dan yr Ogof, Pant Mawr Pot.
Swindon Speleological Society The Stump Penwyllt, Pen-y-Cae Swansea, SA9 1GQ	~£2.00	~10	Dave Edwards 8, Beaufort Road Wroughton, Swindon Wilts, SN4 9HE	Tel 01793 813130	Facilities limited, no toilets, but opposite SWCC cottage. Caves as SWCC.
Westminster Speleological Group Caerllwyn, Halt Road Rhigos, Aberdare, CF44 9UW	£3.50	16	No address on web site, sorry, secretary's address available if you contact Sue Mabbett directly.	<a href="mailto:cottage@wsg.org.uk">cottage@wsg.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.wsg.org.uk">www.wsg.org.uk</a>	Little Neath River Cave, Bridge Cave, Porth yr Ogof

# Cambrian Cave Registry

For those who have read the last Newsletters and the AGM minutes you will realise CCC has now taken on the responsibility for the Cambrian Cave Registry. The new policy item agreed at the AGM provides the guidelines on how it will be organised and function. All we need now is a few volunteers to help bring all the information held out there in people's notebooks and on their computers together. We need to review the current registry status and update as applicable. We need to define what information we record on each speleological site in Wales. It appears to be a daunting task but I am sure all the information we need is out there all we need to do is bring it together. Any volunteers ?

It is important that accurate information on speleological sites in Wales is available to all that is why the Cambrian Caving Council has chosen to make the changes in the constitution so we can take charge of the registry. We have also allowed for money in the budget to progress the 'Cambrian Registry' project.

## CCC/NCA/BCRA Meetings and Events

Sept 2002                      CCC General Meeting, Forest of Dean –see agenda included with the Newsletter  
27-29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2002            Hidden Earth 2002 at Monmouth Leisure Centre and Community School.

## Useful Website Addresses

[www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk) - The National Caving Association Website with links to all regional councils and other NCA functions e.g. national cave registry.  
[www.Hidden-Earth.org.uk](http://www.Hidden-Earth.org.uk) - Details of conference to be held at Monmouth, Sept 2002.  
[www.caving.org.uk](http://www.caving.org.uk) - National website with various links and reports.

## CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: -	Mr R O Clarke (Owen) Tel. 01495 773175 e-mail <a href="mailto:owen.clarke@welshcdg.org">owen.clarke@welshcdg.org</a> 11, Pentwyn Heights, Abersychan, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 7TN
Secretary:-	Miss S A Mabbett (Sue) Tel. 029 20844558 e-mail <a href="mailto:suemabbett@hotmail.com">suemabbett@hotmail.com</a> 2, Garth Close Morganstown Cardiff, CF15 8LF
Treasurer :-	Mr C Owen (Clive) Tel. 01179 732433 e-mail <a href="mailto:cliveowen@tesco.net">cliveowen@tesco.net</a> 17, Normanton Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2TY
Conservation & Access Officer	Mrs E Little (Elsie) Tel 01639 730331 e-mail <a href="mailto:elsie@abercrave.fsnet.co.uk">elsie@abercrave.fsnet.co.uk</a> Hennoyadd Villa, Hennoyadd Road, Abercraf, Swansea, SA9 1VR
Equipment Officer	Mr M Peck (Martin) Tel. 01865 376442 e-mail <a href="mailto:martin@mpeck.co.uk">martin@mpeck.co.uk</a> 116, Rutten Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1LS
Training Officer	Mr E Hoole (Eric) Tel. 01497 847400 e-mail <a href="mailto:c/o_Joyce@powys.gov.uk">c/o_Joyce@powys.gov.uk</a> 3, Gwernyfed Ave, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0RT

Sue Mabbett  
21<sup>st</sup> July 02