

# **Cambrian Caving Council**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**AUG/SEPT 2001**

NO. 3/ 2001-3

## **Cambrian Caving Council General Meeting**

**Location: - Colmendy Centre, Loggerheads, Mold, Flintshire, North East Wales.**

**Date: - 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 01, meeting to be 7.30pm Saturday evening.**

**Hosts: - Grosvenor Caving Club and North Wales Caving Club**

**Events: - What ever you want in the way of caving trips or exploration of local speleological sites.**

**Options include: -**  
Milwr Tunnel / Halkyn Mine  
Visit some of the local caves (see Cris Ebbs book for ideas)  
Visit old mine /industrial archaeological sites  
Walks on local hill and mountains  
Walks directly from the Colmendy Centre to local industrial archaeological sites and Country Park.

**Accommodation: -**  
The Colmendy Centre is an Outdoor Education Centre with complete range of options these include  
Camping Cost ~£3-4 / person  
Group accommodation (bunk rooms for 10-12) Cost ~ £7-10 /person  
2 – 3 bed rooms Cost ~ £15 /person  
Self-catering, there is also a possibility of meals being provided if enough people want this option.

**Meeting (the boring bit): - 7.30pm in a hall at the Colmendy Centre**

**Pub (after the boring bit): - Loggerheads Inn at entrance to the Colmendy Centre**

The event is not just for the Caving Club representative who will be attending the General Meeting, why not get together with 3-4 a car full from your Club and use opportunity to explore the Caves, Mines and speleological sites of North East Wales. A booking form is included please send this directly to Barry (Bazza) Johnston of the Grosvenor Caving Club a.s.a.p please, definitely before the end of August. As most of the Caves in South Wales have closed again and Yorkshire Dales remain firmly shut why not use the opportunity to see some alternative sites.

Any apologies from Caving Clubs for non-attendance at the General Meeting to be sent or e-mailed to Sue Mabbett. Please also send an e-mail or note to Sue Mabbett if your club is sending a representative so we have some idea before the meeting the number of CCC clubs who will be there.

# Foot and Mouth Disease – Status for August 01

Unfortunately due the recent outbreaks in the Central Brecon Beacons, which is spreading eastwards and westwards from this point, some caves and caving clubs that were opened have closed again.

The current status is

- Ogof Ffynnon Ddu is closed
- Pant Mawr Pot is closed
- Ogof Draenen is closed
- Mynydd Llangatwg is closed, including Agen Allwedd, Daren Cilau, Eglwys Faen, etc.
- Footpaths in Central Beacons (Pen-y-Fan, etc), Bloreng, Mynydd Llangatwg, Ystradfellte area, Western Beacons to the A4067 in the Swansea Valley, Eastern Beacons including Black Mountains.
- SWCC Cottages, Penwyllt and CSS Cottage, Whitewalls have closed up again as probably have any other Caving Club cottages in the Beacons but check directly with the Clubs.
- Access to caves outside the Brecon Beacons area are open or opening up. These included as reported previously Lesser Garth Cave, costal caves and some other smaller caves is available due to re-opening of footpaths in the Cardiff, Gower and Pembrokeshire areas.
- Caves and paths North Wales are generally open.
- The Mynydd Ddu (Black Mountain) is still open but with continued testing in the Brecon Beacons then this situation may change.

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](http://www.caving.org.uk)
- ❖ Descent: [www.caving.uk.com](http://www.caving.uk.com)
- ❖ NCA: [www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk)

More Information on Footpath status can be obtained from

- ❖ Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers: They have a website which gives a detailed, county by county, breakdown of footpath closures with maps and lists. Website: [www.iprow.co.uk](http://www.iprow.co.uk)
- ❖ Countryside Agency: Useful advice and links to other websites. Website: [www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

## Cambrian Cave Registry

At the AGM the current state and the future of the Cambrian Cave Registry was discussed in some detail as concerns had been raised with the CCC committee. Since the AGM there have been two meetings to specifically to discuss the Cambrian Cave Registry. It was obvious from these meetings that there is no longer operational cave registry group; there is also no up-to-date or agreed constitution for the Cambrian Cave Registry. The CCC committee have remained in contact with those expressing an interest in ensuring we have an accurate up to date Cambrian Cave Registry.

The CCC committee (and the NCA UK Cave Registry committee) are impressed by the Cave Registry site for the Mynydd Ddu set up by the Brecon Beacons National Park (see [ww.cave-register.org.uk](http://ww.cave-register.org.uk)). We believe this would be a good basis to build on for the Cambrian Cave Registry; BBNP have indicated they are willing to help. The data for this site was compiled by Gary Evans (e-mail [GaryEvs@compuserve.com](mailto:GaryEvs@compuserve.com)) one of those interested in assisting with the Cambrian Cave Registry. Gary has on behalf of CCW compiled an equivalent study for the OFD area. We are aware of others who have compiled data for other regions e.g. North Wales, Pant Mawr, Forest of Dean (I haven't published their names as I have not asked their permission).

What we wish to do at the CCC General Meeting is to agree a new Cambrian Cave Registry Constitution (one will be circulated with other reports) and to agree a way forward to ensure we have an accurate and complete Cambrian Cave Registry which is available to all. If a member of your Club is interested in assisting or possibly has data for the registry, please contact Elsie Little or Gary Evans by e-mail to start preliminary discussion before the meeting.

One of the CCC objectives is "To encourage the recording of information on sites of speleological interest in Wales, the Forest of Dean and the Marches, in the Cambrian Cave Registry, or a similar body". All the committee are trying to do is to encourage this to happen effectively which it has not been.



- Pwll Dwfn Rigging Guide is included with this Newsletter. The number of caves in the Cambrian region is limited there is no intention to publish a rigging guide for profit.
- Adrian asked cavers to note that in some Cambrian caves the P-hangers are fitted for attachment of a hand lines and not for SRT rigging purposes.
- More rigging guides to follow including Pant Maw Pot once Adrian manages to get back to the sites to double check the rope lengths.
- We have identified six cavers from South Wales who are willing /interested in attending an Eco-Anchor placement course, we are hoping to organise a training weekend later this year. Is anyone in North Wales interested or do any of those trained in the Forest of Dean a few years ago need to be re-qualified for insurance purposes.

### **A lecture for cavers and local community: -**

## **BENEATH THE SWANSEA VALLEY**

**Location - Copper Beech Inn, Abercraf, Swansea Valley**

**Date – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2002. The lecture will have presentations on caves of the Langatwg 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.

### **Caver Training**

Do Not Forget there is funding available from both NCA and CCC to support caver training events organised by your Caving Club. I have received recent enquiries from Cardiff University interested in First Aid and SRT training. If you need assistance in providing training or funding for a similar event organised by your club then please send letter of request to Eric (CCC training officer) or Sue Mabbett. If the request is for funding please include an estimate of cost for the event and amount you wish to charge the participants.

## CCC Subscriptions

There are a number of clubs who have still not paid their CCC subscriptions, please pay up soon. For those who have not paid they are receiving a final reminder with this Newsletter. If you believe you have paid and receive one of these reminders please contact Sue Mabbett or Clive Owen to see if your payment has reached us.

## CCC Treasurer News

Clive Owen, the CCC treasurer is off to South America from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> November 01, so he will be unavailable to make any payments. For this period, Sue Mabbett will cover the treasurer duties paying money in and out of the account as required.

## CCC/NCA/BCRA Meetings and Events

- 14<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup> Sept 01 Cambrian Caving Council, General Meeting, Venue in North Wales, details in Newsletter.
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 01 NAHMO Conference, County Wicklow, Ireland. –**Cancelled due to FMD**
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 01 BCRA Hidden Earth Conference, Buxton Community School, Buxton
- Details of the above events may be found in other caving publications e.g. Speleoscene, Caves & Caving

## 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@excite.co.uk 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
Cambrian Cave Register	Mr J Parker (John) Florenta, Broadway, Pontypool, NP4 6HN

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2001

This Newsletter maybe slightly late as I will be a new mum by then but there will be an edition and I hope by then the Foot and Mouth crisis in the Beacons will be receding.

Outstanding items include

- Details from the Forest of Dean on the Cave Conservation and Access Group
- Details for access to mines in the region

Have you any other suggestions for other information you wish for me to include ?

**Sue Mabbett, 12<sup>th</sup> August '01.**

**Booking Form For Cambrian CC Meet in North Wales, 14-16 Sept 01.**

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: - Friday pm/ Sat am\*

Accommodation Required at Colmendy: Camping / Bunk Room / Twin Bed Room \*  
*Note: - The cost of accommodation quoted in the Newsletter is listed from memory and are only estimates.*

\* Delete as applicable

Trip /Activity Request \_\_\_\_\_  
(See options on front of Newsletter)

Any other requirements ? \_\_\_\_\_

The Colmendy Centre is in the village of Loggerheads approximately 2 miles from Mold By Pass Road on the A494 towards Ruthin. A map is on the reverse of the General Meeting Agenda supplied to your Club.

To save on multiple phone calls please direct any questions on the trips available or the accommodation directly to Barry Johnston, phone 01244 372234.

**The booking to be sent to: Barry Johnston, 197, Saughall Road, Chester, CH1 5HG.**

**The booking to be sent a.s.a.p and must be before 31/8/01.**