

Cambrian Caving Club

NEWSLETTER
OCT/NOV 2002

NO. 4/ 2002-3

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Apologises that this Newsletter is very late two reasons: - one the on going hectic life with work and a little one. Secondly, there hasn't been much news from the caving world to fill a newsletter. The main item in this newsletter is Grant Funding for Cavers. I would like to wish a Happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers as the Dec /Jan edition will not be out before Xmas.

Report From Underground Mysteries of the Bloreng Presentation

The event at Blaenavon Working Mens Institute on Saturday 30th November was very popular. The lecture theatre on the ground floor of the Institue rapidly filled to overflowing. Late comers were queueing at the the door. This led to a quick change of room to up stairs in the auditorium of the Institute as over hundred people attended the lecture. There were a number of non-cavers at the talk from the local community interested in what was under their feet in the Blaenavon area.

Ben Lovett started his talk with background as to how cavers go about discovering caves, and the history of Ogof Draenen's discovery way back in 1994. He moved on to show how the cave had expanded in the last eight years and where the cave was in relation to surface features such as the Bloreng. He supplemented his talk with slides of various parts of the cave including some early slides taken at the time of the break through. He reported on the recent dye tracing which confirmed that the main streams in the cave system all flowed to Pontypool. Ben finished his talk with a showing of the video The Dig taken as a dig proceeded in Dreanen in the War of the Worlds area.

A short intermission was followed by Clive Westlake presenting slides showing various features in the cave including the passages, large chambers and the "pretties" stalimites, staglitites and the wonderful helictites to be found at various points in the cave. Clive led us to each area of the cave including Gilwern, Main Stream, Big Country, War of the Worlds and Dollimores. Clive kept us located in the cave with regular references to the survey. Clive's slides and those he borrowed from Chris Howes showed the cave features at their best. Clive ended his talk with a request to the caving audience that Ogof Draenen deserved a full publication in it's own right. It would be nice to see a complete book on Ogof Draenen it's discovery, geology, biology and formations. So any cavers keen to attempt such a project, a book on Ogof Draenen is required. May be the target should be to compile and publish a book for the caves' 10th anniversary in 2004.

I would like to thank Eric Hoole for organising the event, Ben and Clive for their interesting presentations and wonderful slides and finally thank the Blaenavon Working Men's Institute for making us welcome. From that turn out we will definitely organise more lectures. Any suggestions for the next one?

GRANT AID FOR CAVERS

I have received a number of enquiries about grant funding available for ‘Welsh’ cavers from Sports Council for Wales. Apologies to our Club members in the Forest of Dean and else where but you may find some of your members qualify; see details below.

Sports Council for Wales Grant Aid for Overseas Expeditions

The Sports Council for Wales supports the principle of grant aid for overseas expeditions, which will enhance the sport.

THOSE ELIGIBLE – consideration will be given to Welsh based expeditions where the majority of members qualify by **birth, parentage or residence** in Wales for at least 12 months in the last two years. Welsh team members only are eligible for support but note it does not have to be a Welsh only expedition.

CONDITIONS – The applicants must obtain prior approval of the Cambrian Caving Council. Completed application forms must be returned to SCW by the 31st December. *Sorry, for the short notice but club secretaries keep this info for future reference.*

EXPEDITIONS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE – support is given ...”for overseas expeditions that will enhance the sport”. “Expeditions exclusively of an educational or scientific nature will not be eligible for a grant”. *Both quotes are from SCW pamphlet.* Last year the panel took into account the enhancement to the sport, uniqueness of the trip, the benefit to the local community being visited, benefits to sport and local community, cost to participants and number of qualifying participants.

THE SUBMISSION – A prospectus and small location map should be included with the application. If applicable, evidence of political permission or invitation should be included. The application form requires details of numbers, aims of the expedition, budget and full details of qualifying expedition members. The travel and equipment costs are eligible for up to 50% total costs of those items.

GRANT CONDITIONS – The expedition must have a bank account for the expedition, i.e. grants will not be paid into a personal account. The expedition must provide a statement of income and expenditure within 6 months of completion of the expedition. A report on the outcome of the expedition must be submitted to SCW within six months of completion of the expedition. The applicants will also be required to make a presentation to SCW. There are repayment conditions if there is a surplus of funds or cancellation of the expedition.

FURTHER INFORMATION – from CCC Secretary, see address at end or Sarah Powell, Sports Council for Wales, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, CF11 9SW, tel 029 20300500, e-mail: scw@scw.co.uk
Previous expeditions from SWCC, Welsh CDG and China Caves Project have been funded, so apply !

For Welsh and non-Welsh members of Cambrian Caving Council there are other grant funds available see below: -

GHAR PARAU FUNDING for OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS

This is available to all UK cavers. In previous years, there has been a lack of applicants. So if your Club is going on an overseas caving expedition don't forget there is funding available from Ghar Parau. The expedition eligibility and grant conditions are similar to SCW although there are some differences. To obtain full details of conditions, eligibility, application requirements of Ghar Parau Funding contact D Judson (Secretary), Hurst Barn, Cutlers Lane, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684 311057. E-mail Judson@tesco.net. Ghar Parau, application dates and details are in Speleoscene.

Caver Training Grants

Grants towards training events are available from NCA, contact Idris Williams, details on NCA website www.nca.org.uk and in Speleoscene.

Funding for Conservation Projects

By conservation projects, we mean everything from purchasing marker tape to protect formations, upwards. Some caves in the Cambrian region are in reserves of Countryside Council for Wales, the conservation of these caves is funded by the CCW, e.g. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. Other caves within the National Parks (Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia) have in the past received funding from the National Parks, e.g. Ogof Draenen. For the other caves in the region the Cambrian Caving Council has some funds available, as above please apply to Clive Owen, Cambrian CC. Therefore, if you only wish to buy a reel of day glow tape to protect/mark formations in your clubs adopted cave, then please consider applying for some funding. There is also UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund for urgent situations, contact Elsie Little, NCA Conservation Officer, for details see the addresses at the end of the newsletter.

Grants from Cambrian Caving Council

The Cambrian Caving Council also has funds available to aid caving projects. This could be: -

- Caver training e.g. rope and ladder techniques, surveying, SRT or even basic principles cave safety
- Cave rescue training including first aid or SRT rescue techniques
- Special projects e.g. conservation as mentioned above, dye testing or geological /biological studies.

Clive Owen and myself are just about submit budget plans for this year so I will not ask for applications for by a certain date but remember that the aims and objectives of Cambrian CC are to support the caving related type items either from our own funds or by pointing you in the direction of other funding sources.

NEWS FROM THE NCA

- The NCA has a new Training Officer, one Idris Williams who is an active member of South Wales Caving Club. Idris has for many years been a leader of Venture Scout Unit in Shropshire and as a leader obtained his local Cave Leader Award. He therefore come well qualified with knowledge of the increasing requirements to provide qualified leaders for the young persons in our midst. We need the young people to ensure our sport continues to prosper. Please look at the NCA website for his contact details.
- The 'Hub' a group set up to progress with the 'One Stop Shop for Cavers' has been trying to gather information and opinions on what the new organisation should look like and what it should provide to cavers as individuals and as a whole.

Useful Website Addresses

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.caving.org.uk - National website with various links and reports.



- I have now received an offer to obtain the Equipment Officer files from the previous officers house, so I will get these to Martin ASAP so he can check the status of last checks on the various P-Hangers in the region. Martin's Achilles tendon is still recovering so he can't cave at the moment but once we have obtained the files, we will ask on of our trained eco-anchor placers to produce some topos, with Pwll Dwfn first.

Meetings and Events

1st January 2003

Columns Open Day at Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, must be there by 10.00 am to book a trip.

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 M Peck (Martin) Tel. 01865 376442 e-mail martin@mpeck.co.uk 116, Rutten Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1LS
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

Sue Mabbett
7th December 02