

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER October 2008

Editorial

Expedition funding has always been a problem and is likely to become even more difficult in current financial circumstances. Welsh cavers are fortunate to have access to specific grant aid from the Welsh Sports Association. In most years Caving expeditions are funded from this source – at least one of our cavers is a regular recipient - but you'll only get the money if you apply.

Robin Weare [e-mail](#)
Newsletter Editor

Overseas Expedition Grants

Applications are now open to Welsh members of expeditions who want to push the boundaries of their sport to apply for the Welsh Sports Association's (WSA) overseas expedition grant.

The WSA, the umbrella body for all the national governing bodies of sport and physical recreation in Wales, acknowledges the valuable contribution expeditions make to the development of Outdoor Pursuits in Wales and is awarding up to 50% of the estimated cost of travel (U.K and abroad), and equipment to those looking for financial assistance.

Over the years a wide range of outdoor pursuits have benefited from the WSA's support including caving, canoeing, climbing, paragliding, cave diving and rowing. Whilst these ground breaking expeditions have been diverse, they all share a common purpose and passion – a desire to push the boundaries of their chosen sport, and a willingness to test the determination and stamina of expedition members, as they strive to achieve their goals in often difficult circumstances.

To qualify for a grant, all team members must have appropriate previous experience and expeditions must obtain written support from their respective National Governing Body prior to submission of their application to the WSA.

Priority will be given to Welsh based expeditions where the majority of members are Welsh. Only Welsh team members will be eligible for funding. Expeditions must also be ground-breaking and those that are exclusively of an educational or scientific nature will not be eligible for support.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 2008.

For an application pack please contact Greta Guerese-Leach, Communications Coordinator, on 0845 846 0020 or greta.guerese-leach@welshsport.org.uk. More information can also be found at www.welshsports.org.uk.

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER October 2008

BCA Statement on Access Agreements

It is a stated aim of the British Caving Association to "support members [...] in obtaining, ensuring and maintaining access arrangements at a national, regional and club level". We would like to remind members that landowners have the right to grant or withhold access to caves and that this right remains regardless of whether the cave entrance lies on "CROW Access Land" or not.

As a result considerable work is often put in to creating Access Agreements. This is done to ensure continued access for members and also remove the burden on landowners and tenants from floods of cavers knocking at their doors. Unfortunately BCA is aware that a number of vital and sometimes delicate Agreements are currently being compromised by some cavers and clubs ignoring them. If we are not careful this could well result in the collapse of these agreements and all BCA members will lose out as a result.

Therefore, Club and Individual Members are requested to check the current access situation for all caves they intend to visit. As guidebooks are sometimes out of date, it is recommended that information is always checked with Regional Council websites or the up-to-date version of the BCA Handbook (available free from the BCA website). Updates to access arrangements are also to be found on the BCA Forum and BCA and Regional Council Newsletters. If any doubt remains, Regional Access Officers should be contacted.

BCA Statement on Children & Young Persons in Caving

In order to clarify our position on the participation of children and young persons in caving the British Caving Association Council Meeting on 4th October adopted the following statement:

"The BCA is committed to removing barriers to participation for children and young persons who wish to start caving."

I am today writing to The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the NSPCC making clear BCA's position in this respect and BCA is now launching a thorough review of the current Child Protection documents.

Damian Weare
BCA Secretary
9th October 2008

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER October 2008

Dan yr Ogof

Earlier in the year we communicated temporary limitations on parties entering DYO in wet or unsettled weather while the rescue dump is being increased in capacity and scope so that it will fully cater for any future incident.

Due to extended periods of wet weather this is taking longer than originally expected. We have now new communications cables that run from the showcave through the lakes to Wigmore Hall where the new facilities will be located.

The completion of the work will be weather dependant, and we will let you know as soon as access returns to normal.

A reminder of the current access provision is detailed below.

The DYOCAC and DYO showcave management wish to ensure the safety of wardens and their parties while in the cave.

Until further notice, IN WET WEATHER only the number cavers allowed into DYO will be approximately 8 in any one day. In dry settled weather the number of people allowed in will remain unchanged.

Please check the weather before embarking on a trip, not only for the day of the trip but the preceding days. Always have an alternative trip planned in case the weather is not with you.

Please be aware that the showcave staff have the authority to remove caver access if they feel that water levels and or weather conditions warrant it.

Tunnel Cave is not weather dependant and can be accessed via the showcave under similar access conditions as DYO. Simply ask at the showcave for an airlock key. Access to the gated Tunnel Top entrance is via the SWCC.

Brendan Marris
Secretary, DYOCAC

Bridge Cave

Reports have reached us that the unusually wet weather has resulted in changes at Bridge Cave, undermining the boulder choke. A visit in late-September noticed that a wet flat-out crawl had appeared at stream level, leaving parts of the choke above apparently unsupported. The choke itself doesn't seem to have moved, yet... but caution is advised!

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER October 2008

Otter Hole

The 2008 season has now ended and new web based booking system worked brilliantly and the upgrade to the bath proved to be popular but once again the weather was a problem which affected almost exactly half of the trips.

Meets Secretary, Nicky Bayley, reports that there were 41 trips this year, of which, only 15 were successful. 6 trips got as far as the sump, but no further, 14 were cancelled due to the weather, 5 were cancelled by the groups, and one forgot the key....

The details of what happened when are up on the website on the 2008 bookings calendar if you wish to have a look. Go to <http://www.rfdcc.org.uk/> and follow the links. While you're there, look also at the 2009 calendar and book your trip for next year – over half the dates have already been allocated.

Rat Fest – 15th November 2008

The CSCC have organised a day to celebrate and remember Tony Jarratt which will almost certainly be of interest to many of our members. They have sent out details of the plans for the day which are:

Daytime

Visits to various Cave dig sites:–

- Wigmore
- Caine Hill
- Hunters Lodge Inn Sink
- Templeton
- Rolling Thunder (Swildons)
- Tumbledown (Swildons V)
- White Pit
- Rose Cottage

And many more.....More updates on the digs later

Contact Les Williams on canda@csc.org.uk 01749 679839 or 07941029707

Afternoon & Evening

Priddy Village Hall will be open from 3:30 pm with a bar and tea/coffee available.

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER October 2008

We plan to have some big display boards in the hall so please send digital copies to Stuart (Mac) McManus smcmanus@wetltd.co.uk or bring copies of any photos, articles or anything you'd like to put on the boards at the village hall.

4.00 to 6.30 – Alan Gray, Fraser Simpson and others are putting together a collection of films, TV clips and your digital pictures of Tony.

6.30 to 7:30 – Drinking and Eating.

There'll be a pig roast and Beef at £2.50 per roll.

We have no idea how many people will come but we hope there'll be enough for everyone.

Food will be available until about 9pm.

We plan to have some entertainment throughout the evening but there'll be a tent outside the hall and hopefully plenty of opportunity to meet and talk as well as enjoying the entertainment.

Early Evening – music, songs, anecdotes and more beer!

Contact Rachael if you'd like to sing, play or speak. rachaelclarke2@hotmail.com or phone 01749 678754

Late Evening – dancing and a Tony-dance-alike competition (paramedics will be in attendance)

Forest of Dean Caves

Check out the RFDCC [website](#) where you'll find a Google map of the area with all the cave locations identified - click on Caves in the left hand bar.

This is still a work in progress and I'm told that the mines will be addedeventually

While you're there I can certainly recommend that you take a look at Nicky Bayley's excellent short film **Underground in the Forest of Dean**. It gives a great flavour of the caves in this under visited area.

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER October 2008

FoDCCAG

Changes and additions to the FoDCCAG e-mail contact details are shown below:

chairman@fodccag.co.uk ;	Paul Taylor
secretary@fodccag.co.uk ;	John Hine
treasurer@fodccag.co.uk ;	Robin Weare
conservation@fodccag.co.uk ;	Maurice Febry
permits@fodccag.co.uk ;	Dave Tuffley
information@fodccag.co.uk ;	David Appleing
jonathanM@fodccag.co.uk ;	Jonathan Maisey
georgeC@fodccag.co.uk	George Cheshire

SRT Training Event

The Cambrian Caving Council SRT Training event will be taking place at Llangorse Multiactivity Centre during the weekend of 1st & 2nd November with the financial support of Sports Council Wales. It was fully booked within days but those who were disappointed will be pleased to know that further training will be on offer next year.

Goatchurch Cavern - Loose boulders

Boulders have recently moved in Goatchurch Cavern, in the Water Chamber at the top end by the passage to the Drainpipe and also down the passage towards the Drainpipe.

CSCC is carrying out stabilisation works in this area. Please take care here and avoid the passage to the Drainpipe for the duration of the works. Please note that the boulder slope down from the Water Chamber is very loose as it has been undermined by the stream. Concreting works will be undertaken shortly.

Diary

November 1 st	WBCRT Cave Diver search
November 1 st /2 nd	Cambrian Caving Council SRT Training
November 15 th	DYO Wardens Meeting – Copper Beech, Abercrave
December 7 th	GCRG Rescue Practice in Slaughter Stream cave
December 31 st	Closing date for WSC overseas expedition grant applications
January 1 st	OFD Columns Open Day
January 17	WBCRT Rescue Practice in one of the Gower caves
March 8 th	Cambrian Caving Council AGM