

The British Caving Association

# NEWSLETTER

## Rule changes for FSE EuroSpeleo Projects

From exploration expeditions to scientific conferences, from trainings to didactic or artistic projects, with more than 50 European projects awarded grants since 2007, and 10 to 15 new requests every year, the FSE EuroSpeleo Projects have shown their great interest to bring together the European cavers from all over Europe to develop creative and dynamic new Speleological projects.

This article is to inform you that the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) funding rules have evolved in order to adapt gradually the funding grant amount to the project size and to open it to the projects that consist of only 4 European countries (against 5 minimum previously). The projects made with FEALC or Africa-Middle-East countries are still with a minimum of 3 countries represented.

All the changes are summarised in the points 3 and 4 of the ESP request form available here :

<http://eurospeleo.org/main6/eurospeleo-projects/eurospeleo-projects-funding-application-form-v0-5.rtf>

The request must be sent to [contact@eurospeleo.org](mailto:contact@eurospeleo.org) at least 4 months before the start of the project. After this time, no submissions will be considered.

We want to take this opportunity to warmly thank the 3 European FSE Official Partners (Beal rope, Adventure Verticale gear and Scursion's lamps) for all the support they bring to each ESP project throughout the

year (500m rope, 500 euros worth of AV gear and 1 Power-lamp over the 400 euros minimum FSE grant).

Alexey Zhalov  
Vice-Secr. FSE & ESP manager  
&  
Olivier Vidal  
Secr. General FSE  
[contact@eurospeleo.org](mailto:contact@eurospeleo.org)

Over the last three years there have been four serious incidents in Yorkshire caves involving flooding. These incidents all involved qualified Level 1 or Level 2 LCMLA leaders. The most recent incident, which took place on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, was caused primarily because an appropriate weather forecast had not been obtained. This has resulted in two qualified Level 2 LCMLA leaders having had their certificates suspended. The BCA will, in any future similar incident, remove qualified person's certificates in the case of gross procedural negligence or mal practice.

Graham Mollard  
BCA Training Officer



## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

I think it's highly appropriate to start by congratulating and thanking Les Williams and his team for an excellent Hidden Earth. In my opinion it was the best I have ever attended, well done and keep up the good work.

On the note of Conferences, it looks highly likely that we will be hosting a European wide Conference in Summer 2016. The European Speleological Federation has put off final ratification until this December. But it seems likely that the BCA will be hosting this event Summer 2016. So Les and his team will have an even bigger challenge.

To complete notes on Conferences, don't forget the UIS International Congress in Brno, Czech Republic 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013. If anyone needs further information on this please email me or look on the website.

On the home front, a lot is going on within BCA, important changes have taken place within the Training Committee. We are very grateful to Graham Mollard for the hard work that he has put in over the years, he has now stepped down. Nigel Ball taking his place, for this we are also very grateful.

Within the E & T Committee an enormous amount of hard work has been put in particularly with reference to fixed aids and fixed bolts. Many, many hours of bolt testing have taken place and I am sure the final outcome will be safer caving for us all.

Damian Weare has done his first draft of the first part of a Memorandum of operations which outlines the day to day operating of the British Caving Association. The recent Council meeting discussed this draft, a few amendments were suggested but overall it was felt Damian is doing a excellent job. The full Memorandum of Operations should be put before next Summer's AGM probably as a draft document that is Work in Progress.

Mentioning the AGM, I am searching for an appropriate venue to make a fun AGM. With a meeting on Saturday afternoon and a party in the evening. Venues have proved to be a problem. As all the

appropriate ones looked at so far are not available the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June.

I have however booked a venue for 2013 so it is possible we may keep Alverchurch for the next AGM and then try the new format the year after.

Finally, I have had two invitations as Chairman of the British Caving Association for prestigious London events. On the 8<sup>th</sup> December a group of five cavers, A J Eavis, Dave Brook, Rick Stanton, Dave Checkley and Pete Smart are to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace. This is entitled "For those involved in Exploration and Adventure". I think it is an appropriate invitation bearing in mind that we are some of the few people doing original exploration.

Two days later on 10<sup>th</sup> December, Brian Schofield (Scoff) myself and my son Robert are giving the Annual Children's Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society. This is the second time in recent years cavers have done this event. The first was some twenty years ago when it made headlines by abseiling in through the Lecture Theatre roof. Lets hope it goes as well this year.

Once again I cannot finish without thanking very sincerely all the BCA Council Members, I am very grateful for all your efforts and please continue to do them as efficiently into the future.

**ANDY EAVIS**  
Chairman

### EQUALITY STATEMENT

The BCA will make its services available to all sections of sporting community, there will be no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.

## Experiment on Hand Lines

Are you responsible for a fixed line in a cave or mine? If so, BCA may be prepared to give you a free replacement unused rope for your fixed line. In the debate over whether rope is an acceptable fixed aid within a cave or mine environment, some evidence has just been acquired which points to larger diameter ropes left in situ potentially having quite reasonable life times (in excess of 10 years), though it is emphasised that smaller diameter ropes (under 11mm) probably do not. A proposal has just been accepted by BCA to fund an experiment to acquire more data to help this debate. The objective of the work is to replace a small number of existing hand lines, leave them for a reasonable period of time and then take them out and test them. The work will be under the guidance of Bob Mehew, BCA's Rope Test Officer.

The work is aimed at fixed ropes used as a hand line for ascending, descending or traversing in a cave or mine. We are specifically looking for existing fixed aides which are used either as a security system in a traverse or as a hand aide to climb up or down a pitch. So this proposal will cover situations where people use Cows Tails for achieving their security. But this work is not intended to cover rope on pitches where ascenders or descenders are intended to be used. We will also consider proposals which involve replacing existing wire rope fixed aides with rope.

In order to side step several potentially thorny issues, the rope will only be supplied to locations which already have rope installed as a fixed aide. Any application must be supported by the local Regional Caving Council, NAMHO or another National Body, though preliminary enquiries are welcomed. It should be noted that this support does not commit the body to endorsing rope as fixed aides; rather it is to ensure the applicant is a reliable person or group. As the funding is limited, it is anticipated that there should be around 200m of rope available and requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis subject to agreement of details. In addition, the applicant shall be required to undertake an inspection regime and maintain a dialogue with BCA's Rope Test Officer. It is likely that the ropes shall be left in place

for a 5 year period or longer, depending upon data, subject to the results of the inspection programme, of course.

Because the testing of rope requires a minimum length of rope, a range of information is required to enable consideration of the application. A reasonably accurate estimate of the overall length of rope, lengths between anchors and lengths required for each anchor is required to help assess whether the installed rope can provide sufficient lengths of rope to make the samples for testing. The BCA test rig uses a total of about 2.25m of rope with tying the knots at either end to make up the appropriate length sample. So each section of installed rope between anchors should have a minimum length of around 2.25m between fixing knots. Given we wish to test a number of samples we are therefore looking at rope section lengths between anchor sections which are a number of times the minimum length of 2.25m. The use of knots in the rope to aid a person to hold onto the rope is acceptable, but details of the locations of such knots will also be required. In order to facilitate the inspection, it is anticipated that the ropes will be connected by stainless steel shackles to the anchors (Stainless steel is being considered to avoid rust marks). So details of the anchors to which the rope will be attached area also required. This does not rule out the use of natural belay points or other anchors but given the rope will be tied around the point, there is a need for an estimate of the length required for each loop including tying the knot itself. These details are open to discussion.

The inspection process is also being developed but will be based on the processes of a visual inspection, a tactile inspection plus probably a "rolling loop" inspection (One makes a full turn in the rope and see's if the curve is smooth; one then rolls the loop along the length of the rope looking for any points where the curve shows an angle indicating a defect in the core). Unless the location is naturally clean, it is anticipated that the rope will be disconnected from the anchors and washed before inspection.

If you are interested, then please contact Bob Mehew either via [rope\[at\]british-caving.org.uk](mailto:rope[at]british-caving.org.uk) or by phone on 01704 569107.

## Regional News & Access Issues

### DERBYSHIRE

#### Regional Council—Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA)

Hon Secretary: Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3FE  
Tel: 01335 370629  
Email: [dca@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:dca@theDCA.org.uk)  
Website: [www.theDCA.org.uk](http://www.theDCA.org.uk)

#### CLATTERWAY SOUGH

We have received a message from the new owner of 2 Hollowbrook (formerly known as Hollowbrook Cottage) in Bonsall, Mr. Damion Taylor, as follows:

Clatterway sough exits into our garden and I understand that from time to time cavers may wish to use the sough to enter and exit the Clatterway mine system. You might want to make your members/readers aware of the following: We are happy to allow entry and exit to the sough by prior permission, ideally using the email address [did666@sky.com](mailto:did666@sky.com). The sough will now have a locked metal gate to prevent our small children from venturing inside - this will be installed and locked from 1st. August 2011. In order to avoid a wasted trip, or even worse not being able to exit, it is essential that prior permission is sought so the gate can be unlocked.

Please ensure this information is circulated as widely as possible and that everyone knows to ask Mr. Taylor's permission by emailing [did666@sky.com](mailto:did666@sky.com) in advance.

### FOREST OF DEAN

#### Regional Contact - Forest of Dean Cave Conservation and Access Group (FoDCCAG)

Hon Secretary, John Hine, The Grottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford, Glos GL16 7QF  
Tel: 01594 833217  
Email: [mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk)

#### Westbury Brook Gate

The gate, which had been damaged by vandals,

has now been repaired. Visits can be arranged through the FoDCCAG [permits secretary](#).

### MENDIP

#### Regional Council - Council of Southern Caving Clubs (CSCC)

Hon Secretary, Hayley Clark, Hilltop House, Windwhistle Lane, West Grimstead, Salisbury Wiltshire, SP5 3RG. [secretary@cscc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cscc.org.uk)

### WALES

#### Regional Council - Cambrian Caving Council (CCC)

Hon Chairman: Bernie Woodley  
Email: [chair@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chair@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk)  
Website: [www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk)

#### Ogof Nant Rhin/Llanely Quarry Pot

Llanely Quarry Pot is still an issue as the water that runs down the quarry face above has washed out a hole in the roof in the entrance and now the shales that are being eroded off the top of the quarry face are being washed into the cave and will no doubt be making their way down the entrance climb." So – don't treat Pont Gam/Nant Rhin as a pull through and take a shovel if you want to visit Llanely Quarry Pot.

#### The new arrangements for access to Ogof Fynnion Ddu I.

Following the sale of Y Grithig Cottage and adjoining land, in 2 lots, this cave entrance can no longer be accessed through the grounds of Y Grithig Cottage. The cottage is now in new private ownership and there is a new fence separating the land owned by SWCC from that belonging to Y Grithig. The route to be used to the entrance is either:

- 1) from the Club down the dry valley to the gate in the wall, turn left along the wall and across the stile in the fence onto SWCC property and thence to the cave, or



## 2012 Science Symposium

### Presentations of papers on Cave and Karst Science topics, 10 March 2012

*This one-day Cave Science Symposium will be on **Saturday 10 March** at the University of Leeds and is a joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society. Hosts Simon Bottrell, Phil Murphy.*

For up-to-date information, and a copy of the lecture secretary's circular, please go to BCRA's Web Forum, [bcra.org.uk](http://bcra.org.uk) / [forum](#)

Each year the Symposium covers a range of cave science topics, including geology, hydrology, speleogenesis, speleothems, biology and archaeology, so you should find something of interest at the symposium, whether you are an academic, an amateur scientist or a caver wanting to find out more about the underground environment.

Contributions are invited on any aspect of cave or karst science or caving technology. Poster papers, displays or preliminary presentations by postgraduate and undergraduate students are especially welcome. This year's special theme will be Cave Science in the Yorkshire Dales, and it is hoped to devote half the Symposium to this topic.

Those wishing to give a presentation should contact the lecture secretary, Trevor Faulkner, [t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk](mailto:t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk). Titles and abstracts should be submitted by Friday 6 January.

Registration will take place at the start of the seminar. A small admission charge will cover tea and coffee in the morning and afternoon. Further information, including directions to the venue and suggestions for lunch, will be published shortly before the event.

## Yorkshire Dales Field Meeting

### Three-day Field Meeting to Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales, 21–24 June 2012

*This event will run from Thursday evening (21 June) to Sunday afternoon (24 June 2012) and will be based at the Dalesbridge Centre near Settle. It is a joint meeting with the Quaternary Research Association [qra.org.uk](http://qra.org.uk) and will involve members of BCRA's new Cave Archaeology special interest group.*

For up-to-date information, including a preliminary programme and a copy of the lecture secretary's circular, please go to BCRA's Web Forum, [bcra.org.uk](http://bcra.org.uk) / [forum](#)

The meeting will study recent research into cave archaeology and aspects of karst geomorphology in Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales. The QRA field guides *Western Pennines* (Mitchell, 1991), *The Quaternary of the eastern Yorkshire Dales* (Howard and Macklin, 1998) and *Isle of Man and NW England* (Chiverrell et al., 2004) cover adjacent areas with little overlap. Other relevant publications include *Limestones and Caves of NW England* (Waltham, 1974), *The geomorphology of NW England* (Johnson, 1985) and *Karst and Caves of Great Britain* (Chapters 2 & 3) (Waltham et al, 1997: GCR Vol. 12).

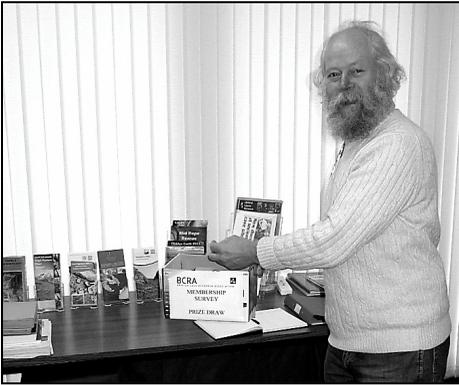
Attendance will be restricted to a maximum of 50, because transport during the meeting will be limited to two 25-seater coaches. Attendees must be members of either QRA or BCRA, to satisfy public liability insurance requirements, which such membership provides. All participants will be required to register and pay the attendance and accommodation fees in advance by the end of March 2012.

The meeting is organised by Hannah O'Regan and Trevor Faulkner. [t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk](mailto:t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk)

## Membership Questionnaire

*Dave Checkley writes:* BCRA Council wants to say a big thank-you to the members who replied to the membership survey. More than half our individual membership responded, with many taking time and trouble to tell us what they thought of BCRA. An analysis of the survey will be published in due course and will, I am sure, be a useful guide to the development of our charitable organisation.

At the recent Council meeting on 13 Nov. at the British Caving Library in the Peak District, we all watched David Gough picking the winner of the prize draw. David picked ticket number 33 which corresponded to the survey returned by Damian Weare, who now has the choice of £50 cash or free BCRA membership.



*BCRA's new treasurer, David Gough, draws the winning ticket in the membership survey prize draw.*

## Cave Studies Series #19

### Exploring the Limestone Landscapes of the Peak District

#### A Walking and Cycling Guide by Trevor Ford and John Gunn

Following closely from the two successful titles in this series that covered Upper Wharfedale and the Three Peaks & Malham, the latest volume extends this series to the Peak District.

Price £5.50 plus 50p UK postage. Make your cheque payable to BCRA and mail it to BCRA Publications, Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG. (Allow 14 days for delivery) Alternatively, please email [publications-sales@bcra.org.uk](mailto:publications-sales@bcra.org.uk) and we will tell you how to pay online, for a faster delivery.

## Archeology Special Interest Group

The Cave Archaeology Group (CAG) is BCRA's newest special interest group, promoting interest and understanding of archaeology in and around caves. The Group's target audience are members of the caving community, who regularly visit or explore caves and who are in an ideal position to identify archaeological or paleontological material in cave environments. The creation of CAG has come about following the achievements of the Upland Caves Network, a group of experts and interested parties drawn from various areas of discipline within cave research. The UCN was given a finite two-year lifespan and was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The new group hopes to enlist support and interest from anyone who spends leisure or professional time in caves, or who require a 'first stop' point of contact for advice, information, or other help with finds of potential archaeological material in caves. It is hoped that group activities will be developed over time to include guided site visits, lectures, and the dissemination of information on cave archaeology projects. The success of CAG will depend largely on the level of interest and support shown by those with an interest in cave archaeology, who are also invited to come forward with their own suggestions regarding the development of the group.

The Cave Archaeology Group's web site is [cag.bcra.org.uk](http://cag.bcra.org.uk). John Howard ([j.howard@bcra.org.uk](mailto:j.howard@bcra.org.uk)) is the CAG co-ordinator. His contact details are at [bcra.org.uk / contact.html](http://bcra.org.uk/contact.html). BCRA's SIG info is at [bcra.org.uk / sig](http://bcra.org.uk/sig)

## Elections to Council

We received a late nomination of Chris Smith and, in addition, Elsie Little has decided to stand down. This means that Council now comprises...

John Gunn	President
Dave Checkley	Chairman
Dave Gough	Treasurer
David Gibson	Secretary

Andrew Chamberlain
Andrew Eavis
Trevor Faulkner
Julian Griffiths
David Judson
Elsie Little
Gina Moseley
Jenny Potts
Chris Smith

<i>Co-opted</i>
Foreign Secretary
<i>Until 31/12/2011</i>
Archivist, Cave Studies Editor
<i>Until 31/12/2011</i>
Speleo Abstracts co-ordinator
Library co-ordinator
<i>From 1/1/2012</i>

## BCRA Events Diary

### ◆ March 10, 2012

Cave Science Symposium at University of Leeds.  
Joint meeting with Yorkshire Geological Society  
[yorksgeolsoc.org.uk](http://yorksgeolsoc.org.uk).  
Hosts Simon Bottrell and Phil Murphy.  
Contact [t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk](mailto:t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk)

### ◆ April 14, 2012

Cave Technology Symposium in the Mendips.  
Organised by BCRA special interest groups,  
CREG, CSG and EUG.  
Contact [a.richardson@bcra.org.uk](mailto:a.richardson@bcra.org.uk)

### ◆ April 15, 2012

Cave Surveying Group field meeting, Mendips,  
*See Technology Symposium above*

### ◆ June 21–24, 2012

Field Meeting to Cumbria and Yorkshire Dales,  
staying at the Dalesbridge Centre.  
Joint meeting with the Quaternary Research  
Association, [qra.org.uk](http://qra.org.uk).  
Programme from Thursday evening (21<sup>st</sup>) to  
Sunday afternoon (24<sup>th</sup>).  
Contact [t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk](mailto:t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk)

## Latest Editions of Periodicals

C&KS 38(2) was mailed in August 2011 and is  
online at [bcra.org.uk / pub / candks](http://bcra.org.uk/pub/candks). C&KS  
38(3) is on schedule for December Speleology  
17 was mailed in March 2011. The next issue  
is expected by the end of the year.

## Speleo Abstracts

*A reminder...*

Speleo Abstracts is an annual compilation of  
the world's speleological literature, published  
by the UIS in Switzerland. About 4000 titles  
are included every year, which cover a broad  
range of subjects.

If your club produces a journal, we would ask  
you to consider providing an electronic copy of  
the contents page and to send this for  
cataloguing to Gina Moseley, [g.moseley@bcra.org.uk](mailto:g.moseley@bcra.org.uk).

Gina would like to keep in touch on a more  
regular basis with the clubs. It would be appreci-  
ated if club secretaries or librarians could take  
the time to send her an email introducing  
yourself so she can put you on her mailing list.

## Membership Fees

In the last newsletter, we said that BCRA's  
membership and subscription fees for 2012  
would be unaltered and that we would  
subsidise the expected shortfall of some £1200  
from our reserves.

Although BCRA fees will remain the same, the  
BCA part of your membership will rise by £1.  
This is because the third party public liability  
insurance cover is rising from £2 million to  
£5 million. See page 5 of BCA newsletter 15.

## Cave & Karst Science Online

A few people have queried why the PDF file  
sizes for the online version of Cave and Karst  
Science have grown so large. This is because  
the PDFs that we have archived are our master  
copy, from which the printed journal is made.  
This means that the photographs are at a high  
resolution – higher than you need for home  
printing. Also, since we had some trouble with  
the fonts a few issues back, we are now  
embedding full font files in the documents.

Clearly, we do need to archive these high-  
resolution copies because, at some point in the  
future, these are likely to form the basis of a  
print-on-demand service. However, it is also  
clear that we should try to provide a lower-  
resolution copy more suitable for downloading.  
We hope to provide these low-res copies soon,  
when an announcement will be made on the  
Notices mailing list.

Don't forget: you can download an individual  
article – you do not have to download the  
entire journal.

## Web Site

Following on from the above, ... We are in the  
process of digitising past issues of Cave & Karst  
Science. This process was begun by Andrew  
Brander, and is also being worked on by Bob  
McIntosh and Graham Mullen. It is a slow job  
but we expect to announce some progress in  
the first half of 2012.

We are also in the process of completely re-  
writing our web site to give it a fresher look.  
When it is launched there will also be a full  
online shop, which should make it easier to  
order publications.

# @BCRA

Please note that this is a list of *contact* addresses, rather than a list of officers and the posts they hold. If you need further information, please contact the secretary. BCRA officers can usually be reached by e-mail with an address of the form *initial.surname@bcra.org.uk*. Contact addresses are also listed on our web site at *bcra.org.uk*, which contains information about BCRA and links to information about BCA. In the list below, ❖ denotes changes to the information printed in BCA newsletter 14, May 2011.

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP INFO ❖ *caves.org.uk / payments / bca*

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES *membership @ bcra.org.uk*  
Glenn Jones, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON,  
SK17 8RG. 01298 873810 (fax 873801)

SALES (Katie Dent) *publications-sales @ bcra.org.uk*  
OTHER ENQUIRIES *bcra-enquiries @ bcra.org.uk*  
REGISTERED OFFICE (UK registered charity, number 267828)  
The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG

## HONORARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT *bcra-president @ bcra.org.uk*  
*See under Cave & Karst Science, below.*

CHAIRMAN *bcra-chairman @ bcra.org.uk*  
David Checkley, Greenhead Barn, Cross Lane, Lower Bentham, ❖  
LANCASTER, LA2 7ES. 01524 263402

SECRETARY *bcra-secretary @ bcra.org.uk*  
David Gibson, 12 Well House Drive, LEEDS, LS8 4BX

TREASURER *treasurer @ bcra.org.uk*  
Dave Gough, 48 King Street, Seagrave, LOUGHBOROUGH, ❖  
LE12 7LY. 01509 814468

## LIBRARY OPERATIONS

FOREIGN SECRETARY *foreign-secretary @ bcra.org.uk*  
*For information about journal exchanges and international liaison:*  
Trevor Faulkner, Four Oaks, Wilmslow Park North, WILMSLOW,  
SK9 2BD. 01625 531558

LIBRARIAN & DEPOSITS *bcra-librarian @ bcra.org.uk*  
*For enquiries about consulting items in the library:* Mary Wilde,  
c/o Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG

LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR *j.potts @ bcra.org.uk*  
*For enquiries about volunteering for library duties:* Jenny Potts  
3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, ASHBOURNE, DE6 3FE. 01335 370629

## PUBLICATIONS EDITORS

SPELEOLOGY  
EDITOR: Erin Lynch *speleology @ bcra.org.uk*  
[China] +86 134 5241 4994 Skype: erin.lynych  
OFFICE: David Gibson *d.gibson @ bcra.org.uk*  
12 Well House Drive, LEEDS, LS8 4BX. Fax 0870 164 0389  
*Ask for information on uploading files to our web site.*

CAVE & KARST SCIENCE  
John Gunn *j.gunn @ bcra.org.uk*  
*Limestone Research Group, GEES, University of Birmingham,*  
*Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM, B15 2TT*  
David Lowe *d.lowe @ bcra.org.uk*  
23 Cliff Way, Radcliffe on Trent, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 1AQ

CAVE STUDIES SERIES *cave-studies @ bcra.org.uk*  
David Judson, Hurst Barn, Castlemorton, MALVERN, WR13 6LS.  
01684 311057

SPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS *g.moseley @ bcra.org.uk*

## FUNDING

CAVE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE *research-fund @ bcra.org.uk*  
*See under Cave & Karst Science, above.* *bcra.org.uk / research-fund*

GHAR PARAU FOUNDATION *gpf-enquiries @ bcra.org.uk*  
*gharparau.org.uk*

Roo Walters, Mill House, Lazonby, PENRITH, CA10 1BL

UK CAVE CONSERVATION EMERGENCY FUND *j.potts @ bcra.org.uk*  
Jenny Potts – *see under Library, above.*

## SCIENCE / SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

❖ *bcra.org.uk / sig*  
CAVE ARCHAEOLOGY *cag @ bcra.org.uk* ❖  
John Howard, 18 Thwaites, KEIGHLEY, BD21 4NG. 01535 681251

BIOLOGICAL RECORDER *cave-biology @ bcra.org.uk*  
Graham Proudlove, Dept. of Zoology, The Manchester Museum,  
MANCHESTER, M13 9PL. 0161 200 3111

CONSERVATION OFFICER *conservation @ bcra.org.uk*  
David Judson. *See under Cave Studies Series Editor.*

CAVE RADIO & ELECTRONICS SIG  
ENQUIRIES: John Rabson *creg-enquiries @ bcra.org.uk*  
Maré-le-Bas, 58800 CERVON, France. +33 (0)3 86 20 25 50  
EDITOR: Rob Gill *creg-editor @ bcra.org.uk*  
61 Cross Deep Gardens, TWICKENHAM, TW1 4QZ.  
020 8892 8852

CAVE SURVEYING SIG  
ENQUIRIES: Andrew Atkinson *csg-secretary @ bcra.org.uk*  
31 Priory Avenue, Westbury-on-Trym, BRISTOL, BS9 4BZ.  
0117 962 3495  
EDITOR: Anthony Day *csg-editor @ bcra.org.uk*  
Anthony Day, Fagervollveien 3, N-3023 DRAMMEN,  
Norway. +47 32 83 62 64

EXPLOSIVES USERS SIG *n.williams @ bcra.org.uk*  
Nick Williams, The Hall, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG.  
01298 873807

SCIENCE MEETING ENQUIRIES *t.faulkner @ bcra.org.uk*  
*See under Foreign Secretary*

## INTERNET

WEB SITE EDITOR *webmaster @ bcra.org.uk*  
EMAIL FORWARDING *postmaster @ bcra.org.uk*  
MAILING LISTS *list.bcra.org.uk*  
WEB FORUM *bcra.org.uk / forum*

## TRUSTEES / COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. Chamberlain, D. Checkley, A. Eavis, T. Faulkner, D. Gibson,  
D. Gough ❖, J. Griffiths, J. Gunn, D. Judson, E. Little, G. Moseley,  
J. Potts. *From 1/1/2012, J Griffiths and E. Little will be standing  
down, and C Smith will be taking up office.*

- 2) from the lay by on the road walk past Y Grithig and then turn right up the foot-path to the gate in the wall, go through the gate and turn immediately right along the wall to the stile. Please refer to the access route at the SWCC HQ when collecting a key.

**Access Route to Ogof Draenen**

We would like to remind all cavers that they must use the agreed access route to Ogof Draenen as a condition of our access to that cave. Recently some cavers have been spotted exiting the cave and heading around the hillside to cars parked at the area of the old forge at Garndyrus (off the B4246). The landowner has asked me to remind everyone that they must access the cave only via the specially constructed and marked stile just off the access road to the Pwll Ddu Adventure Centre. Many thanks for your cooperation, this helps to ensure future access for all.

Fleur Loveridge, Secretary, PDCMG.

**NORTH**

**Regional Council - Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC)**

Hon Secretary: Les Sykes, 49 Manfield, Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6SU  
 Tel/Fax: 01695 728673  
 Email: les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk

In newsletter 14, the email address for Leck Fell enquiries was incorrect. The correct email address is as follows;

jsjimi [at] blueyonder.co.uk

**Newsletter Editor:**  
 Mike Clayton  
 37 Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton,  
 West Midlands DY4 8AE  
  
*newsletter@british-caving.org.uk*

**BCA Subscriptions**

Earlier in the year the BCA Insurance Manager consulted member clubs about the desirability of increasing BCA's Third-Party liability cover limit from £2 million to £5 million. A clear majority of the clubs who responded were in favour of this increase. Therefore, BCA Council has agreed to extend the cover to £5million for 2012.

This is likely to come at a cost to BCA of a little under £10k per annum and, as outlined in the consultation, it has been agreed to increase the membership fees to partly offset this additional cost. Therefore, for 2012 all classes of individual membership, except students and Under 18s, will rise by £1.

This means that for 2012 BCA's Individual Membership Rates will be:

Club Individual Members (green cards) –  
 £17 (caving), £6 (non-caving) or £8 (students & under 18s)

Direct Individual Members or CIM Plus (red cards) –  
 £32 (caving) or £21 (non-caving)

Club Rates remain as 2011 (i.e. somewhere between £20 and £50 depending on the size of the club's membership).

Full details will appear on the BCA website in due course.

**BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION**

**The Old Methodist Chapel  
 Great Hucklow  
 Buxton  
 SK17 8RG  
 www.british-caving.org.uk**



Sports Financial Services simply specialises in arranging life cover, critical illness and income protection cover for sports enthusiasts. We have negotiated special terms and unlike many other companies that do not specialise, we aim to provide the best quote that already includes cover for your sport. The initial quote you will receive from us will already take into consideration your activities. This avoids unexpected extra costs or activity exclusions once we have submitted your application to the insurer.

Sports Financial Services have been able to secure the following terms for BCA members;

Cover can be arranged at no extra cost for the caving activities of those members who go on less than 50 trips per annum whose caving is limited to the following countries:

U.K., France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands.

We have also obtained terms for qualified caving instructors and active trained cave rescue personnel. There will be no extra premium payable on these applicants irrespective of where they cave or how often they cave.

For those who cave outside of these countries or who go cave diving, individual terms apply.

For a quote please go to [www.sports-fs.co.uk](http://www.sports-fs.co.uk) or call on **0844 579 1006**

Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the formal view of the British Caving Association.

#### **Newsletter Editor wanted**

The position of newsletter editor for BCA will become vacant in early 2012. If you feel that this could be a role for you, please contact the current Editor or Les Williams

# Hidden Earth 2011

A very successful event was held at Monmouth at the end of September. At the conference, a number of awards and prizes were handed out. Full details of the competition winners can be found on the web site at [hidden-earth.org.uk / history / winners.2011.html](http://hidden-earth.org.uk/history/winners.2011.html).

## BCRA's Arthur Butcher Award

BCRA awards the Arthur Butcher prize annually for contributions to cave surveying. The judges consider projects brought to their attention during the year, as well as all surveying work that is on display at the Hidden Earth conference. This year the award goes to Kevin Dixon and the Mulu Team for the Lidar Survey of Sarawak Chamber. This project involved an impressive combination of several factors: dedication to the subject, enormous hard work on the ground, publication of high-quality results, and the marshalling of an impressive budget. The work was not directed at new exploration, but has produced results with huge and lasting public-relations value, which is important outside the caving community as well as within it. Kevin receives the Arthur Butcher trophy to keep for one year. He has asked that the £100 cash prize from BCRA be donated to the Mulu expedition.

*Citation by Wookey, on behalf of the judges*

## GPF's Tratman Award

The prestigious Tratman Award is awarded annually to a caving-related paper-based publication in memory of E.K. Tratman, who died in 1978, to recognise excellence and encourage future improvement. It is administered by the Ghar Parau Foundation, but is judged under newly clarified rules by three

independent cavers – for 2010 these were Chris Howes, Alan Jeffreys and Martin Mills.

The judges considered a wide range of publications, including both books and club journals. From among the many the final shortlist became: Matienzo, edited by Juan Corrin and Peter Smith, this being an amazingly packed book devoted to the exploration of this area of Spain and including maps and data on CD-ROM, *Is That So?*, compiled and edited by Rob Taviner in support of the Mendip Cave Registry and Archive, *Wookey Hole* by Jim Hanwell, *Duncan Price* and *Richard Witcombe*, being both a superb book as well as a club-based publication, and the *Red Rose CPC Journal (10)* edited by Paul Swire.

It is worth noting that although the latter journal bears a 2009 imprint, its publication was delayed until 2010 and thus it was eligible for consideration this year. It is an excellent example of a general rise in production quality of club journals, both in design and printing, which the judges noted across the board and which we hope will continue.

All these titles are therefore commended but the final decision to decide upon a winner was, it must be stressed, an extremely difficult and close one to make with Matienzo and *Wookey Hole* competing for the award. Thankfully, as there was no award made in 2009, the Ghar Parau Foundation committee offered to support two prizes in 2010, so both

editorial teams were asked to accept awards at Hidden Earth in September, on behalf of the many cavers who had input into the respective projects. Congratulations go to all involved.

*Citation by Chris Howes, on behalf of the judges, Chris Howes, Alan Jeffreys and Martin Mills*

## Giles Barker Award

Giles Barker lost his life while caving in Spain in 1992. An accomplished cave photographer, Giles was a member of the Red Rose CPC and Morgannwg CC. These clubs have annually, since 1993, funded and presented the Giles Barker Award in his memory. The annual award is made to a cave photographer in recognition of excellence in any aspect of cave photography and is announced at Hidden Earth each September. For 2011 the award, a hand-crafted statue of a cave photographer made by Ceris Jones, goes to Brendan Marris. Brendan has become known for a consistently high standard of underground photography and, since 2008, publishing regular updates on his website at [ogof.org.uk](http://ogof.org.uk). As part of a personal online project, he is documenting the caves of South Wales, logging the results against digital maps. Both the quality of his work and his comprehensive approach make Brendan a worthy winner.

*Citation by Chris Howes, on behalf of Morgannwg CC and Red Rose CPC*

# Hidden Earth Conference Team

*A grateful thank-you to the conference team listed below and also, of course, to the lecturers and session chairs, the traders, sponsors and the delegates themselves, who all contributed to the event's success*

## Conference Manager – LES WILLIAMS

Conference Secretary	David Judson
Conference Treasurer	Dave Cooke
Trade Hall Manager	Hat Stand
Event Signage	Geoff Dommett and The Doug

## Technical Team Manager – LES WILLIAMS

with Dave Appleing, Basher, Bean, Buddy, Mike Clayton, Claire Cohen, James Collings, Paul Dold, Firas Fayad, Cave Ferret, Mark Helmore, Mark Kellaway, Tony Littler, Andy Morse, Mike Peters, Simon Richardson, Dean Scott, Fraser Simpson, Slug, Ian Timney, Frank Tully, Stu Waldren, Jed Waldren, Tim Watts, Tim Webber, Chris Williams



## Admin. Team Manager – WENDY WILLIAMS

with Lou Biffin, Wendy Bollard, Jo Diamond, Martell Linsdell, Sarah McPhee, Grace Stewart, Becky Varns, Sarah Watts, Jenny Williams.

## Events Team: Lecture Secretary – EMMA PORTER

SRT Events	Mark Wright
Speleo Olympics	Lee Hawkswell and Nigel Gower
Opening MC	Andy Eavis
Opening AV	Chris Binding
After Dinner Speaker	Noel Dilly
Closing MC	Goon
Closing AV	Steve Sharp
Closing Script & Projections	Geoff Dommett, with Paul Dold, Footleg, David Gibson, Jerry Wooldridge



## Competitions Team: Secretary – JACKY ANKERMAN

Photo Salon Co-ordinators	Footleg, Paul Dold, David Gibson
Video Media Co-ordinator	David Gibson
Art Salon Co-ordinators	Robin Gray, Ceris Jones
Surveying Competition	Juan Corrin
Club Stands Award	Jacky Ankerman
Arthur Butcher Award	Wookey
Tratman Award	Chris Howes
Giles Barker Award	Chris Howes
Moore Books competition	Mike Moore

Judges: Dave Checkley, Hugh Penney, Jerry Wooldridge

Judges: Martin (Basher) Baines, Glenn Jones, Dave Ryall  
Judges: Pete Glanvill, Ceris Jones, Jerry Wooldridge

Judges: Dave Checkley and conference delegate  
Damian Grindley

Judges: Wookey & colleagues

Judges: Chris Howes, Alan Jeffreys, Martin Mills

Judges: Morgannwg CC, Red Rose CPC

Judges: Kelvin Lake, Steve Holding

## Sponsorship & Publicity – ELSIE LITTLE, KAY EASTON

Publicity	Maxine Bateman
Poster Design	Jerry Wooldridge
Flyer Design & Web Site	David Gibson
Programme Design	Paul Mann

## Bar Manager – ANDY CULVER

Bar Staff – Sue, Paul, Jane, Mushroom, Dave, Hamish, Spike, Amy, Angus, Gareth. Aided by Tony & Tufty

## Site Team Liaison – DAVE JUDSON

Leisure Centre Staff – Andrew Jones & his Team

Catering Staff – Faith Jones, Josse Worgan and their Team

