



BCRA

Join for only £10



Offer to BCA Members: If you are a former BCRA member and you have let your membership lapse in favour of BCA in order to receive the insurance benefits – or even if you are just a new member of BCA – you can join BCRA for only £10.

This offer applies to all BCA members apart from those in the Club Individual Member category. Members of BCRA receive *Cave & Karst Science*, receive discounts on BCRA publications, and are eligible to apply for research grants. Also, of course, you are helping to support BCRA's scientific aims.

Under the new arrangements *Speleology* is of course a benefit of BCA membership.

For a list of benefits see bcra.org.uk/detail/fees.html

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BCRA / BCA MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Lynne Bailey, Hafod Swn-y-Dwr,
The Dardy, CRICKHOWELL, NP8 1PU.
01873 811662
membership@bcra.org.uk

BCRA's Annual General Meeting

Will be held at the Hidden Earth 2005 event which, this year, takes place in the Mendip area. The meeting will be at **5pm on Sat 24th September**. The address of the venue is Churchill Community School, Churchill Green, Churchill, WINSCOMBE, BS25 5QN. For further information about the venue, see hidden-earth.org.uk. AGM documents are available at bcra.org.uk/detail/agm.htm.

BCA's New Logo

In 2004 BCA ran a competition for the design of its new logo. Several entries were displayed at the Hidden Earth Conference 2004 in October. No winner was chosen and the competition was extended.

As you can no doubt see at the top of the page - we now have our new logo thanks to the efforts of David Gibson (who would like to thank Mick Day, Ceris Jones and Jerry Wooldridge for their input). The Logo now appears as an official British Caving Association symbol. Thanks and Congratulations to David.

News and BCA Updates

GPF Tratman Award for British Speleological Literature 2004

When the Ghar Parau Foundation Committee met on the 20th February 2005, it agreed wholeheartedly that the Tratman Award for the best contribution to speleological literature for the year 2004 should be presented to Professor John Gunn for his editorship of The Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science (Fitzroy Dearborn, New York & London; 928pp.).

The Award will be presented at Hidden Earth '05, Churchill School, North Somerset, 23-25 September 2005. Coupled with this Award will be thanks to the very many contributors and workers who made this tremendous publication what it is, particularly Tony Waltham, who put in an immense amount of time and effort assisting John.

David Judson

New CHECC Postal Address

*Matthew Wire
CHECC Secretary
Whitelowes
Greenacres Lane
Bewdley
Worcestershire
DY12 2RE*

UIS - Web Volunteer

The International Union of Speleology website has moved to a new and faster server at www.uis-speleo.org. There are fresh details for national organisations and their addresses/contacts.

A volunteer is needed to carry on the website improvements as part of a team that shares the workload. The site is now being organised so that the various UIS commissions are able to make their own updates.

For more information email Peter Mahhews, Informatics Commission President: matthews@melbpc.org.au.

CSCC Handbook 2005

The Council of Southern Caving Clubs Handbook and Access Guide appeared earlier in the year dated February 2005. It replaces the handbook published in 1995. The A5, 36pp, production includes background information on member clubs, accommodation on Mendip, Weil's Disease, conservation, Mendip's survey scheme and the cave registry, as well as safety and car break-ins.

The bulk of the publication is given over to access requirements for named sites, divided into sections for Mendip, Bath stone mines, Bristol, Portland, the

Quantocks and the mines of East Surrey. Each entry includes a grid reference and where permission and keys should be sought.

Free copies of the handbook have been sent to member clubs; if you require your own copies, send a cheque for £2 plus 50p p&p to Dave Cooke, 3 Starrs Close, Axbridge BS26 2BZ. Email: handbook@csccl.org.uk. The information is also available on the web: www.csccl.org.uk.

GPF

What follows is an edited review of Ghar Parau Expeditions for 2004-5 as presented earlier this year to SportUK in an effort to raise the profile and funding of British Exploration.

During the year we have supported a total of fourteen expeditions. These comprised three to Europe (Spain and Austria), six to China, and one each to India, Thailand, Vietnam, Venezuela and Peru.

The European ventures were sound high-tech, testing, strenuous exercises that were a mixture of training together with pure exploration, survey and photography; essential training grounds for the larger ventures further afield. The Chinese, Indian (Meghalaya) and Vietnamese ventures all made major discoveries, in partnership with local people. These were not only as major contributions to the world caving scene, but also

BCA Newsletter Editorial Address

BCA N/L Editor, Jim Cochrane, BCA N/L Editor, 148 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff, CF24 4RS
E-mail: newsletter@british-caving.org.uk

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.

News and BCA Updates

as being significant activities in support of human interaction and understanding across nations and across continents. We were the 'first friends' of the young band of Chinese cave explorers and cave scientists when we started out there some 20 years ago, but sadly we are now rapidly being overtaken by the French and the Americans.

Like the Chinese ventures, Vietnam and Meghalaya will continue successful partnership projects that have been running for a number of years.

The Pumacocha, Peru project was a new high altitude venture with hopes of deep exploration, but results have been disappointing to date. The Venezuela project was unusual in that it was to the remote Tepui of Roriama, made famous by Conan Doyle, where exciting explorations of

the essentially sandstone caves were made and surveyed.

All in all it adds up to a good year, with substantial explorations having been successfully achieved across three continents. Sports Council funding supported all but one of the fourteen expeditions, but with an average percentage of total funding as low as 3.4%. This was brought up to 4.6% with the addition of our own funding, but this is in all considerations a very low figure.

In recent years (since 1996) caving expedition funding from Sport UK has been running at approx. only 40% of what it was for some years prior to 1995. We find this very disappointing and quite unsatisfactory for our Sport.

A recent informal survey of expeditions indicated that whilst Sports Council funding was much

sought after and appreciated, it does need to be greatly increased if it is to play any real part in promoting and supporting the highest echelons of our Sport on the World scene. We were for many years at the forefront of World cave exploration, being the first to explore and appreciate the huge potential of Irian Jaya, Sarawak, Vietnam and China.

Looking at the age structure of our sport we perceive a growing imbalance between the older and younger generations. This is of great concern to us. We feel that there is a need to target young people in further education, and otherwise, who in many cases simply cannot afford overseas expeditions. We are certain that some of our greatest potential talent is being lost to us here, and are keen to address this issue.

David Judson, Secretary GPF



HIDDEN EARTH 05
THE NATIONAL CAVING CONFERENCE
CHURCHILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL ~ MENDIP

23~25
SEPTEMBER
05

PLUS
FIELD MEETS
@ PRIDDY ~ SEE WEBSITE

PETZL

photo: -
Andy Whitney

www.hidden-earth.org.uk
bookings@hidden-earth.org.uk or Wendy Williams tel: 01749 679839



BCA Travel Insurance

With immediate effect the broker/administrator for the Expeditions/Travel Insurance Policy has changed to:

RBPM Ltd
 Volpoint House Blakey Road
 Salisbury
 Wiltshire
 SP1 2JG
 Tel: 01722 336998, Fax: -336407
travel-insurance@british-caving.org.uk

The insurer remains the same: Travel & Personal Underwriters Ltd, and the rates that have been negotiated with them show a small rise over those for 2004-5. The policy and benefits offered remain unchanged as do the conditions that are applicable. (See page 6 of the BCA Handbook 2004-2005.) On 14th January 2005 the new Financial Services Authority rules concerning insurance came into force and these have led to the change in our arrangements.

David Judson, Legal & Insurance Officer

Here are some basic things to consider regarding other Travel Insurance for your trip (and the suitability of BCA Travel Insurance)

** What is the amount of the search and rescue cover for caving? (BCA: £50k)*

** Is 'expedition' caving and 'original exploration' covered? (BCA: yes)*

** Does the rescue cover include 'appropriate self-rescue' or is it limited to rescue by a 'recognised rescue service'? (BCA: selfrescue can be included)*

** Do you need multi-activity cover (e.g. climbing, mountaineering)? (BCA: caving must be main activity)*

** Do you require annual or single trip cover? (BCA: no annual cover)*

** Do you require 'travel insurance' or just 'rescue and medical' cover? (BCA: includes 'travel insurance')*

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION WEB SERVICES

The British Caving Association can now offer cut price web hosting solutions for its members. This is a fully featured service which gives you complete control of your webspace and email. Hosted on Windows 2003 servers or the latest Redhat Linux servers.

Basic Webhosting (Windows 2003 servers) £25 Per year
(includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support)

Linux Webhosting (latest Redhat Linux servers, Apache,) £40 per year
(includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support)

Domain registration and renewal

£7.00 for 2 years (.uk domains)

£11.00 per year (top level domains)

Password Protection	£15 per domain per year
Spam Filtering	£15 per mailbox per year
Virus Scanning	£25 per domain per year
Web Stats	£15 per domain per year

Many other services available including:

ASP, .NET Framework, FrontPage Extensions, ODBC, Databases.

Prices on Application

Note: These prices are for clubs and individuals.

Commercial organisations can also purchase web space at competitive rates, please contact the webmaster for details and prices.

www.british-caving.org.uk

or by email:

webmaster@british-caving.org.uk

Regional News & Access

Mendip

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CSCC, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary: Steve King, 33 Ottery Way, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 7UG.

E-m: secretary@csc.org.uk

Website: www.csc.org.uk

Football Field Quarry/Quarry Dean Farm

In March all caving access rights for Football Field Quarry (also known as No.4) and Quarry Dean Farm (also known as No.2) in East Surrey were removed by the landowners. The situation is very delicate, please do not attempt to visit these sites (the landowners have signalled a willingness to prosecute), and leave all negotiations to the Wealden CMS and the CSCC.

Browne's Folly Mine

Browne's Folly Mine at Bathford has been closed by the Avon Wildlife Trust pending a condition report by a Mines Inspector. The CSCC is being kept informed. Cavers are asked to stay away until further notice.

Avelines Hole

A gate has been installed at the very back of Avelines Hole in Burrington Coombe. A rock carving of possibly Mesolithic origin has been discovered. More details can be found on the UBSS website.

Box Stone Mine

Following consultations with the landowners, English Nature - who have a statutory duty to protect the resident bat colonies - have informed the CSCC of forthcoming works at Box Stone Mine, near Bath, later this year. There are no longer to be any open entrances. Some will be filled in, some will be grouted and some will be gated. Caving access will be preserved. Further details will be posted as they become available.

BAD AIR ON MENDIP UPDATE

Report received 7th August 2005 warning of bad air in Cuckoo Cleaves. Also a reminder that Swildon's Hole is still similarly affected.

Chris Binding CSCC C&A
canda.csc.org.uk

Charterhouse Caving Talks

A series of caving events is being organised at the Charterhouse Centre from 12 to 16 December - further information is available from the centre Tel: 01761 462267.

On the 12th of December Dave Irwin is giving a lecture on the history of Swildon's Hole, on the 13th the film *A Rock and a Hard Place* about the exploration of the caves in Fairy Cave Quarry will be shown, then on the 14th of December there will be a talk about the Mendip Rescue Organisation and its work. On the 15th John Volanthen is speaking on the subject of cave diving, while the following day a 'newcomer' trip is being arranged as an introduction to the sport.

Admission to the talks costs £4 per person, the film £2 and to join the newcomer trip costs £13.50.

(Report taken from *Descent*)

Derbyshire

Regional Council - DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

For information on DCA, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary, Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbys. DE6 3FE. Tel: 01335-370629, E-m: dca@theDCA.org.uk Website: www.theDCA.org.uk

CAVES OF THE PEAK DISTRICT in the pipeline (it's a long pipe).

Iain Barker, Bob Dearman and John Beck of the DCA have started work on bringing out a new edition of Caves of the Peak District. It's 14 years since the last one and several new discoveries have been made in that period. We aim to get the completed book at the printers in

the early spring of 2006 and to have any hope of achieving this we need all the help we can get. In order for the new book to be as up-to-date as possible, we need as much information as we can get from every individual and club who has worked in the area since 1991. Everything from a one metre extension to a known cave, to a brand new hole; to maintain the information available to cavers of the future, as well as the present, it all needs to go into print or much will be forgotten. If your club, or any individual cavers you know of have made even the smallest dig or advance please can we have the details? Even abortive digs need to be recorded to maintain the record.

The way to report your activities/discoveries is simple; just write it up in the same format as an entry in the current Caves of the Peak District and email or post it to;

DCA Access Officer
Iain Barker
56 Thornbridge Crescent,
Birley,
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S12 3AE

Email: iainbarker@peakland.freeserve.co.uk
Tel: 0114-2530112

However insignificant your contribution may be, please submit it all the same, who knows what a future caver may make of it.

Thank you very much for your time and trouble, I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future, Iain

North

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CNCC, send S.A.E to:
Hon. Secretary, Les Sykes, 49 Manfield,
Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6SU
Tel/Fax. 01695-728673
E-m: les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk

Access Permits

Requests for access permits to the caves when CNCC has negotiated an agreement

must be sent to the relevant meets secretary at least one month in advance. The request must be on club headed note paper and signed by an officer of that club. The request must include a SAE. Failure to comply with these three simple actions will result in a permit not being issued. CNCC meets secretaries are required to send a monthly return to the land agents at the beginning of each month, hence, at least one month notice. The CNCC secretary does NOT have the authority to issue permits, so please do not phone him for permits, he will only tell you to write to a meets secretary.

Meets secretaries:

LECK FELL
J.Sloane
60 Sharoe Green Lane
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 8EE
jimbo@saqnet.co.uk

CASTERTON FELL
P.Muckalt
96 Low Lane
Torrisholme
Morecambe
LA4 6PP

BIRKS FELL/MONGO GILL
R.Halliwell
23 Hull Road
Cottingham
East Yorkshire
HU16 4PN

The CNCC secretary has a new email address:
les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk

Wales

Regional Council - CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL

For Information on CCC send S.A.E to:
Hon. Chairman, Sue Mabbett, 2 Garth Close,
Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF. Tel: 02920
-844558, E-m: suemabbett@hotmail.com

Regional News & Access

OFD Top Entrance

There has been a roof fall just inside Top Entrance.

Parts of the roof, over an area from the entrance to one and a half metres in and the full width of the passage, have collapsed. The obvious loose rocks left hanging in the roof have been brought down. Please use this entrance with extreme care. Only one person at a time in the area between the bits of stripey tape please. On your own head be it.

SWCC Conservation Officer

Little Neath River Cave, Bridge Cave and Upper Nedd Valley Access

An access agreement has been reached between the Cambrian Caving Council and the Landowners of the above caves, on behalf of all cavers both recreational and professional.

Parking for these sites will be at the Bridge Cave car park only. As before, cavers will be expected to pay the agreed parking fee to the landowners, the Lewis family of Blaen Nedd Isaf. There will probably be some form of secure collecting box at the car park in the future but for now, a quick trip to the farm by one member of the group to ensure continuing good relationships would be in order.

Sporting cavers are asked to have suitable 3rd party liability insurance. Further pre-requisites of access are; that each member of the group is entering the cave of their own free will; that each knows the nature of the difficulties they will encounter and that each caver accepts that they are entering a potentially dangerous environment at their own risk.

Should anyone wish to dig or conduct a scientific project within LNRC, please contact the CCC beforehand. The cave and the land above and around the area are a designated SSSI which carries special protection at law. No dig or project will be refused if they are carried out in an acceptable manner.

Access for professional groups will depend on their demonstrating to the CCC that they have appropriate insurance cover, have carried out the necessary risk assessments and have paid their appropriate fee to the landowners.

Report: Bernie Woodley.

SWCC Conservation & Access Officer

South Wales CC Contacts

Chairman; Gary Vaughan, 6 Franklin Crescent, Poole BH14 9PX

Tel: 01202 743632

E-mail: chairman@swcc.org.uk

Secretary; Clark Friend, 45 Stanway Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 8HU

Tel: 01865 762546

Email: secretary@swcc.org.uk

Hut Bookings; Keith Goodhead, Lle'r Ysgaw, Cradoc, Brecon LD3 9QA

Tel: 01874 610080

Email: hutbookings@swcc.org.uk

OFD Permits; Elaine Owen, 19 Parnham Road, Gosport, PO12 4TZ

Tel: 02392 715382

Email: ofdaccess@hotmail.co.uk

*In addition, Bernie reports that a number of clubs have requested an annual permit for **Pant Mawr Pot**. This is at odds with the conditions of access agreed with the landowner. A permit is required to cross the moor to visit the cave, enabling estate staff to challenge parties. Daily permits for all bona fide club cavers are available from the South Wales CC HQ in the Swansea Valley.*

Access in West Wales

Green Bridge Cave/Ogof Carreg Gwyn

Tony Oldham reports that access to the above gated caves is restricted to the summer months to protect hibernating bats in the winter. No access details seem to be available for the caves, though a key to Green Bridge is available from a local outdoor pursuits centre. More details in Tony's book *The Caves of West Wales*.

Forest Of Dean

Regional Contact - FOREST OF DEAN CAVE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP

Hon. Secretary, Dave Appleing, 128 Brooklyn Gardens, Cheltenham, Gloucester. GL15 8LW.

Tel: 01242-581385, E-m: DAppleing@aol.com

Regional News & Access

New Forest Guidebook

Tony Oldham has published a new edition of *The Caves of the Forest of Dean*, written by Tony, Keith Jones and Paul Taylor with indebted acknowledgements to many other cavers for details on specific sites.

The guide is an A4 format, part 11 in the *Caves of South Wales* series and contains 55 pages devoted to specific sites plus ten pages of introductory material.

Of particular interest is the detailed information including updated and corrected grid references for 166 major and minor sites plus 31 surveys and maps, a significant update on the first edition (1996). The guide features the many extensions to existing sites plus a few new sites of interest.

Copies may be purchased direct from Tony at 1 Riverside Mews, Cardigan SA43 1DH for £7.50, postage free.

Email: tonyoldham@hotmail.com.

Conservation and Access in the Forest

March saw the Forest of Dean Cave Conservation and Access Group AGM. In the past two years relations have strengthened with Forest Enterprise and English Nature, as well as continued work on access and permit issues.

A new committee was elected and now comprises:

Paul Taylor, Chairman
John Hine, Secretary
Tim Gilson, Treasurer
David Tuffley, Permit Secretary
Maurice Febry, Conservation Officer
David Appleing, Information Officer
Jonathan Maisey (Club Rep, GSS)
George Cheshire (Club Rep, Hades CC)

General enquiries should be made by email (mole@grottagge.fsworld.co.uk) or in writing to John Hine, Hon. Secretary FoDCCAG, The Grottagge, 2 Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford GL16 7QF. Applications for access permits can be emailed to: FoDCCAGPermits@redhousefod.freeseerve.co.uk marked for the attention of David Tuffley, or sent to him at 30 Coombe Drive, Buckshaft Road, Cinderford GL14 3EF. If making requests by post, please include a SAE.

Report: Paul Taylor

BCA OFFICERS 2004-05

Chairman:

Mick Day,
118 Whitmore Road,
Harrow, HA1 4AQ
Tel. 020-8422-9668
E-m. chair@british-caving.org.uk

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Somerset, BA4 4TE.
E-m. finance@british-caving.org.uk

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Elsie Little,
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Hennoyadd Road,
Abercrave, SA9 1UR.
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E-m. conservation@british-caving.org.uk

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2, St. Maurice Road,
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E-m. training.officer@british-caving.org.uk

Legal & Insurance Officer:

David Judson,
Hurst Barn, Castlemorton,
Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LS.
Tel. 01684-311057
E-m. landi@british-caving.org.uk

Publications & Information Officer & Webmaster:

Les Williams,
51 Churchill Road East,
Wells, Somerset, BA5 3HU.
E-m. webmaster@british-caving.org.uk

Training Courses

Local Cave & Mine Leader Assessment Scheme (LCMLA)

Each caving and mining region in the British Isles has its idiosyncratic features in the nature and form of the underground systems, the objective hazards likely to be encountered and in problems related to access and conservation. The LCMLA scheme is designed therefore, to reflect the needs and interests peculiar to each Area. It is flexible in that the candidate is assessed with regard to the caves or mines or potholes in which they wish to lead parties.

The LCMLA scheme provides an award based on an independent assessment of the competence of those wishing to take responsibility for others underground, for the benefit of employers or others in authority. The main considerations of the assessment are equally the safety of the group and the conservation of a fragile environment.

The assessment is for leaders undertaking limited objectives within one or more regions. It is available at Level One (non-vertical systems), or at Level Two (vertical systems with pitches up to 18m [60ft] explored with ladders, although single rope techniques is an option for the leader only). Those wishing to undertake more ambitious objectives should register for the Cave Instructor Certificate (CIC) Scheme.

The assessment has a core syllabus, standardised nationally, but has a local knowledge element (hence the name) to take account of specific hazards and problems of conservation, access etc of each site that a party is to be led within. A key feature of the scheme is a specific assessment of the candidate with regard to a declared list of named cave and / or mine sites in which the candidate wishes to lead parties.

(Taken from LCMLA syllabus)

LCMLA Level 1 & 2 Training Courses 2005					
Date	Region	Level	Contact	Cost	Notes
Mon/Tues 26/27 Sept	Derbyshire	Level 2 training	Nigel Atkins		
Sat/Sun 12/13 Nov	Northern England	Level 1 training	Tom Redfern	From £68	Ingleborough Hall Self-catering or fully residential available
Mon/Wed 21/23 Nov	Northern England	Level 1 training	Tony Flanagan	£80	Non-residential Starts Monday evening
Thurs/Fri 24/25 Nov	Northern England	Level 2 training	Tony Flanagan	£90	Non-residential Starts Thursday morning Ingleborough Hall
Sat/Sun 26/27 Nov	Northern England	Level 2 training	Tom Redfern	From £78	Self-catering or fully residential available
Fri-Sun 2/4 Dec	Northern England	Level 1 training	Tony Flanagan	£80	Non-residential Starts Friday evening
Sat/Sun 3/4 Dec	Northern England	Level 2 training	Tony Flanagan	£90	Non-residential Starts Saturday morning

LCMLA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2005

LCMLA holders are advised to contact their Area Liaison Officer for other Revalidation Workshops. Names and contact details may be found on the Training Pages on NCA's web site www.nca.org.uk.

Training Courses

LCLMA REVALIDATION COURSES Level 1 and 2 (6 Year)

Sunday, 13 November - South Wales - contact Dave Ludlam

Sunday, 11 December - North Wales - contact Dena Proctor

C.I.C REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2005 (Contact Training Administration Service Provider for an application form)

November 15 / 16

Course Director Paul Rafferty

C.I.C TRAINING COURSES 2005

October 11 / 14

Course Director Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk
Yorkshire Dales, contact Tony for residential/non-residential costs.

November 21 / 24

Course Director Juliet Parker-Smith

December 6 / 9

Course Director Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk
Yorkshire Dales, contact Tony for residential/non-residential costs.

CONTACT DETAILS

Nigel Atkins Tel: 01283 210666
Email: nigel@pennineorganisation.com

Tony Flanagan Tel: 015242 41210
Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk

Tom Redfern Tel: 015242 51651
Email: tom@ingleboro.co.uk

Dave Ludlam Tel: 01874 622843
Email: d_ludlam@yahoo.co.uk

Dena Proctor Tel: 01490 440208
Email: dena.p@tiscali.co.uk

Paul Rafferty Tel: 07889 751781
Email: simplesolution1@aol.com

Juliet Parker-Smith Tel: 01497 820512
Email: juliet@trewern.bardaglea.org.uk

For any other enquiries contact the **Training Administration Provider at BCA Training Administration**, C/o RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS, Fax/Tel: 015396 22040, Email: trainadmin@british-caving.org.uk.

DCA/BCA Cavers Workshop 14th-15th May 2005 Training Officer's Report

Saturday

9.30am on a pretty warm May morning, which was typical, as I had set up this event indoors!

The **SRT intro** session was run by myself to an audience of very enthusiastic cavers and as usual I covered everything from equipment, techniques, ropes to singing Bon Jovi songs! The morning session looked at all types of SRT kit available including one my first Petzl Stops from the Atkins caving museum! The afternoon allowed opportunity for people to try kit out on the fixed ropes.

The **SRT advanced** session was again this year run by Iain Rennie covered topics beyond just up and down the rope. Iain had ropes running all around the climbing wall and adjacent walls to keep people busy.

The **First Aid** session was run by Nichola Pickering who took her group away somewhere and we never saw or heard any of them ever again.

At the end of the day kit was sold, swapped, borrowed and of course stolen by me to re-sell on the following day.

Sunday

9.30am and an even sunnier day was on offer. The sessions were repeated from the Saturday with the addition of the **SRT Pitch Rigging**. Again, the day was very active and the different tea break times allowed everyone to walk around and observe the other sessions in mid-flow. This must be the first workshop ever to have an outside lunch break! The SRT advanced session was also assisted by new CIC trainee Chris Boardman.

Ken Weston who runs Upper Limits joined us on this day and shared his experience of rope work etc.

My personal thanks go to the following:

Iain Rennie, Matt Robbins, Nichola Pickering, Jenny Potts, Chris Boardman, Becki Atkins for the admin and Ken Weston for the venue. Thanks also go to everyone who supported the event.

Nigel Atkins, DCA Training Officer

Hidden Earth 2005

Hidden Earth is the UK's annual caving conference, traditionally hosted by the British Cave Research Association (BCRA - a registered charity) for the benefit of all cavers.

For 2005, the conference returns to the Mendip Region, to a new venue at Churchill Community School. This is located south-west of Bristol, between Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare, near the town of Winscombe, at the foot of the northern side of the Mendip Hills. For cavers, the description "a couple of miles west of Burrington Coombe" should give you an idea of the location.

The conference will be on 23rd-25th September. Further information will be available at <http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk/>.

Ticket price on the door will be a very reasonable £25 for the weekend. Camping space will be available on-site with no need to book in advance.

Facilities this year include a swimming pool for cave diver training sessions, a trade hall in the sports centre as well as the art and photo competitions/salons. As usual there will be field trips and SRT races and practice sessions.

A location map can be found at: <http://www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?pc=BS255QN&scale=200000>

The venue address is Churchill Community School, Churchill Green, Churchill, WINSCOMBE, BS25 5QN.

<http://www.churchill.n-somerset.sch.uk>

British Cave Research Association Science Symposium 4th March 2006

The British Cave Research Association is pleased to announce that its next annual Cave Science Symposium will be held at the Bristol University School of Geographical Sciences on 4 March 2006.

Whether you are an academic, an amateur scientist or a caver wanting to find out more about the underground environment, you'll find something of interest at the Symposium. Each year the verbal presentations and posters cover a wide range of cave science topics - from archaeology to hydrology, and from biology to geology.

TRAINING & EVENTS

To offer a presentation please contact the lecture secretary:

Andy Baker,
School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences,
The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
B15 2TT

Tel: +44 121 415 8133

Email: a.baker@bcra.org.uk

Presentations from students, including undergraduates, are particularly welcome.

Further information, including directions to the venue, will appear on the BCRA website www.bcra.org.uk as the Symposium approaches.

University Caving Forum 2005 Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs at YSS (Yorkshire Subterranean Society), Helwith Bridge

Information for this years return to the excellent YSS facilities, with programme details and updates as available at www.CHECC.org or E-mail unicaving@yahoo.co.uk.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

SUICRO's 21st SpeleoBirthday Bash

Being held at the Burren Castle Hotel, Lisdoonvarna from 28-31 October 2005. Exclusive use of the hotel for the weekend and some superb international presentations, plus a very good price package, promise and excellent event.

Hotel prices range from 40Euros per night B&B to 140 for three nights with dinner inclusive. Contact one of the organisers, Barbara Faulkner, on +353 (0)65 7074227 for further event details. Hotel direct: +353 (0)65 7074344 or email: whitehotel@iol.ie.

RESCON 05 - Poland 19 - 25 September 2005.

An International Cave Rescue Congress; RESCON 05 is organised by the Voluntary Mountain Rescue Service of Poland. The congress will involve talks and training by cave rescue specialists both on the surface and underground including possible trips to both Cracow and the salt mine of Wieliczka. The conference fee is 40 Euros, with reasonably prices accomodation and food in addition.

E-mail RESCON 05 Director, Tadek Widomski t.widomski@bz.net.pl or RESCON 05 Secretary, Jarek Gutek goutec@pro.onet.pl.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF BCA/NCA TRAINING COMMITTEE, 2005/6

TO BE CONFIRMED

Items for consideration by the committee should be raised through your constituent body representative or sent to the Training Officer.

Members of the Training Committee 2004/5

Convenor & Training Officer:

Idris Williams, Glen Cottage, Holden Lane, Ruyton-XI-Towns, SALOP, SY4 1JD. Tel. 01939 260412, E-mail: training.officer@nca.org.uk

A Representative from each of BCA's constituent bodies:

These are currently:

The Regional Councils of Caving:

- Cambrian Caving Council
- Council of Northern Caving Clubs
- Council of Southern Caving Clubs
- Derbyshire Caving Association
- Devon & Cornwall Underground Council

The other bodies which represent specialist interests:

- Association of Caving Instructors
- British Cave Research Association
- British Cave Rescue Council
- Cave Diving Group
- Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs
- National Assn. Mining Historical Organisations
- William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust

Co-Opted Members are:

- John Cliffe, 4 Kensington Avenue, Lansdown, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 2NQ. Tel. 01242-262505 E-mail: jcliffe@gxn.co.uk
- A representative of the Forest of Dean Conservation & Access group.
- The Chairmen of the CIC Panel and the National Co-ordinating Panel.

Publications

CAVE STUDIES SERIES

The following Titles are now available:

- 1 Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales (1991) Tony Waltham/Martin Davies
*
- 3 Caves and Karst of the Peak District (1992) Trevor Ford/John Gunn
- 4 An Introduction to Cave Photography (1994) Sheena Stoddard
- 5 Introduction to British Karst Environments (1994) John Gunn
*
- 7 Caves and Karst of the Brecon Beacons National Park (1998) Mike Simms
- 8 Walks Around the Caves and Karst of the Mendip Hills (1999) Andy Farrant
- 9 Sediments in Caves (2001) Trevor Ford
- 10 Dictionary of Karst & Caves (2002) David Lowe/Tony Waltham
- 11 Cave Surveying (2002) Anthony Day (with J M Eyre, P R Deakin and D Judson)
- 12 Underground Britain: Legal and Insurance Issues (2003) David Judson
- 13 Exploring the Limestone Landscapes of Upper Wharfedale (2003) Phillip Murphy
- 14 Swildon's 2 and 3 (2004) David Irwin
- 15 Exploring the Limestone Landscapes of The Three Peaks & Malham (2005) Phillip Murphy

* Numbers 2 and 6 are out of print, but have been updated by 11 and 10 respectively.

Offers and suggestions for further titles are always welcome:

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Village Farm, Great Thirkleby, Thirsk, N Yorks YO7 2AT
Tel: 01845-501424, **E-mail: publications-sales@bcra.org.uk**



BCRA

ALL TITLES: currently £3.50 + 50p postage within UK.

THE REVISED CIC HANDBOOK

The final draft of the revised C.I.C Handbook is now on the NCA website from where it can be downloaded.

LCMLA HANDBOOK 3rd EDITION

The new LCMLA Handbook is now ready. All revisions to the 1st and 2nd editions are available on the NCA website from where they can be downloaded.

www.nca.org.uk

BCA/NCA ONLINE

NCA Website:

<http://www.nca.org.uk>

BCA Website:

<http://www.british-caving.org.uk>

Both websites will continue to operate as the BCA website gradually takes over and there are links between them. The BCA website currently concentrates on Membership and Insurance; other material relating to the national body will still be found on the NCA website for the time being.

Publications

BCA/NCA PUBLICATIONS ON TRAINING / SAFETY, CONSERVATION, ETC.

From: **BCA PUBLICATIONS**, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire. SK17 8RG. www.british-caving.org.uk

For queries, contact:- Tel. 01335-370629, E-mail: publication.sales@british-caving.org.uk

All cheques etc. should be made payable to B.C.A

For "free" items, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope as appropriate.
(C5 envelope with 1st. or 2nd. class stamp for DL or A5 items.)

- British Caving Association Handbook, 2005-2006** (£6.00 incl. p&p)
Report of Technical Advisors Seminar (40pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)
NCA Training Committee Report
- Guidelines for University and College Caving Clubs.** (8pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)
(The 'Guidelines' includes the leaflet **Caving Notes for Beginners** which is NOT available separately)
- NCA Cave Conservation Handbook**
The definitive Cave Conservation Publication, supported by English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and other conservation bodies. 174 pages, fully illustrated, with sections detailing threats, initiatives, policies, legal points, etc. plus regional sections and appendices.
(Sold unbound - you provide your own file cover.) (£1 + £3.50 p&p)
(Sold complete with file cover.) (£10 + £5.50 p&p)
- Cave Conservation Policy** (32pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)
Lost Caves of Britain (Cave conservation video) (£10 + £1 p&p)
- Radon Underground** (Radon Exposure During Underground Trips - A Set of Guidelines for Caving and Mine Exploration.) (24pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)
- Underground Britain - Legal & Insurance Issues** (2005 Edition) (£3.50 incl. p&p)
- Free Conservation/Safety/Information Leaflets - just send us an S.A.E.:**
Cave Conservation Policy - Summary (DL)
Protect Our Caves (DL)
Bats Underground - A Conservation Code (A4)
Weil's Disease leaflet (DL)
So, You Want To Go Caving (information leaflet for beginners / non-cavers) (DL)
Syllabuses for LCMLA and CIC can be obtained from BCA Training Administration (see below) or downloaded from the BCA Training website at www.british-caving.org.uk
Almost all of these publications can be bought at a special discounted price from BCA stands at caving events such as Hidden Earth, Cavers Fairs, etc.

Training publications may also be obtained direct from: BCA Training Administration, RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS.
Tel/Fax: 015396-22040, E-mail: trainadmin@british-caving.org.uk

DEADLINES FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Ghar Parau Expedition Grants: 31 August. Contact the Secretary, Hurst Barn, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684- 311057. E-mail: d.judson@bcra.org.uk

BCRA Research Fund: 1 April, 1 August, 1 December. E-mail: research-fund@bcra.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

COURSES, CONFERENCES, EVENTS, ETC.

2005

September 23-25 Hidden Earth 2005, Churchill Community School, Mendip page 12

October 28-31 SUICRO XXI, Burren Castle Hotel, Lisdoonvarna, Ireland.

November 25-27 University Caving Forum 2005, run by CHECC (Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs). YSS (Yorkshire Subterranean Society), Helwith Bridge, nr Settle.

More information at www.CHECC.org or E-mail unicaving@yahoo.co.uk

2006

March 4th British Cave Research Association, Science Symposium 2006, University of Bristol, School of Geographical Sciences. page 13

June 11-13 NAMHO 2006 Conference, Royal Pavillion, Llangollen.

MEETINGS

2005

Sep. 24: BCRA AGM at Hidden Earth (see above), 4pm (Saturday)

Nov. 4: Mynydd Llangatwg CMAC Meeting, Hobby Horse, Brynmawr

2006

Feb. 25: DCA AGM, 10am, Monyash Village Hall

May 6 - CSCC AGM. 10.30am. Hunters' Lodge, Priddy.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check for details of these and other international events on the UIS Speleo Calendar at:

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/calendar/events.html> and www.ijs-speleo.it.

2005

September 19-25 - RESCON 05 - International Cave Rescue Conference, Podlesice, Poland.
Details on page 13.

October 28-1 - Imagna 2005, International Meeting of Speleology: Exploring, Sant'Omobono Terme, Bergamo, Italy

2006

August 7-11 - NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington, USA

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EQUALITY STATEMENT

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