



Crossing the lakes in Dan-yr-Ogof

Further Details and Contacts

Our website www.chelseaspelaeo.org.uk contains a membership information pack in Adobe Acrobat format, a list of contacts, forthcoming club activities, information about the cottage and bookings, and links to other caving-related websites. For information about members local to you and forthcoming activities, please contact one of the following:

Secretary

Stuart France (Mid Wales)
Tel: 01874 730016
Email: css@linetop.com

Publications

John Cooper (South West England)
Tel: 01749 670568
Email: csspub@googlemail.com

Librarian

Anna Northover (South Wales)
Email: anna@pnorthover.freeserve.co.uk

London Area Rep

Gary Kiely
Tel: 07958 039721

Cottage Warden

John Stevens (Southern England)
Tel: 01635 200879
Email: john@k-stevens.fsnet.co.uk

Membership

The club was founded many years ago by cavers from the London area - hence its name Chelsea. But now there are around 100 members, ranging from novice upwards, living all over the UK. The main focus of our caving activity is in South Wales, but regular meets are held elsewhere including a monthly pub meeting in London.

The club welcomes new members of whatever ability aged 18 years and over. Prospective new members should apply to the Secretary for Provisional Membership in the first instance.

Provisional Membership is for six months at a time. Full Membership is by application to the committee and notice being given to existing members, and subject to approval. Couples may take out Joint Membership and receive one set of publications. An Associate Member package provides for copies of club publications only.



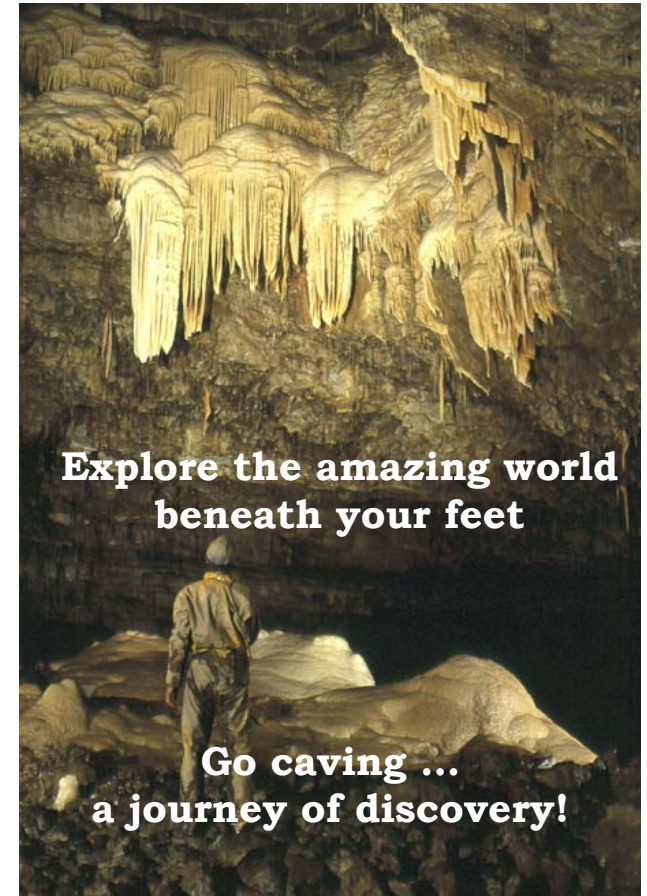
Photo above: Urchin formation, Agen Allwedd

Photo right: Ogof Craig a Ffynnon

Photo credits: Stuart France, John Stevens, Clive Westlake



**Chelsea
Spelaeological
Society**



**Explore the amazing world
beneath your feet**

**Go caving ...
a journey of discovery!**



**Cymdeithas
Ogofeydd
Chelsea**

The Cottage

Since the 1960's the Society has owned a cottage called Whitewalls on the hillside above Llangattock, near Crickhowell in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Car access is either via the old tramroad which contours Mynydd Llangattock from Brynmawr, or up the steep hill from Llangattock village. Aim for where these two roads meet at grid reference SO 2045 1573.

There is sleeping accommodation for 16 people, a well-equipped kitchen, common room, central heating, changing and shower facilities, and a garden/camping area. We are in the final stages of building an extension for the club's library, cave rescue stores, and additional facilities. Members can use the cottage any time. Visiting clubs should book online or by telephone.



Displayed inside the cottage are detailed surveys of all the local cave systems, and large size copies of some of these are available for sale. The club is well known for its high standard of production of major cave surveys.

Besides caving, the cottage makes a great base for climbing, walking, cycling, and exploring in the Brecon Beacons or Black Mountains.

Caving

Whitewalls is superbly situated for caving. The adjacent Mynydd Llangattock limestone massif has some of the longest and largest caves in the country with over 65 km of explored passages in three major cave systems: Ogof Craig a Ffynnon, Ogof Darren Cilau and Agen Allwedd. The latter two caves are within walking distance of the cottage.



The Time Machine, Ogof Daren Cilau, Llangattock is one of the largest cave passages in the UK

Less than 20 minutes drive away is Ogof Draenen, one of the longest cave systems in Britain, most of which has been surveyed by CSS members.

Several smaller caves near the cottage are suitable for novice trips, including Eglwys Faen and Ogof Clogwyn. The Society holds keys for many of the local caves and has leaders for Dan-yr-Ogof and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. We also arrange trips to other caving areas in the UK and holidays abroad. We also occasionally explore old mines and tunnels.

There are a number of active cave divers within the club. Further details of this specialist activity can be found at the CaveDivingGroup.org.uk website and from our members who also belong to the CDG.

Facilities

Library and Tackle

The CSS Library is available for members and it contains many caving books, magazines and periodicals. The society also owns tackle such as ropes and ladders for use by members. Caving equipment can be bought or hired from various specialist suppliers: ask us for details of shops.

Publications

The Society sends out a *Newsletter* every month to its members, and also publishes a series of *Records* which are journals documenting sites of underground interest in England and Wales.

Affiliations

The Society is a member of the British Caving Association, British Cave Research Association, Cambrian Caving Council, and it is represented on the Pwll Ddu Cave Management Group and the Mynydd Llangattock Cave Management Advisory Committee. Local CSS members also participate in the Gwent Cave Rescue Team.

Meets and Social Events

The club arranges many caving trips, often on an informal basis, as well as organised social events including dinners, BBQs and a bonfire party. The club provides a regular pub meeting for its members who work in the London area.



Craig y Cilau National Nature Reserve