

# CYMDEITHAS MYNYDDOEDD CAMBRIA CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS SOCIETY

Llywydd / President: Iolo Williams ● [www.cambrian-mountains.co.uk](http://www.cambrian-mountains.co.uk)

## Report of Trustees for 2005-2006

### A Strategy for the Cambrian Mountains

The main activity of the Trustees during the year has been to develop proposals for the future of the Cambrian Mountains. The *Cambrian Mountains Strategy*<sup>1</sup> is the result. This has been through many drafts during the year, and we commend this final version to our members. Printing of the *Cambrian Mountains Strategy* is expensive but it will be available for members to see at the AGM. After the AGM it will be placed on the website. In brief, the document outlines a vision for the future of the Cambrian Mountains, considers alternative ways of achieving this vision, and provides reasoned justification for the view that the creation of an AONB is the most practical way forward.

In order to develop further ideas for the *Cambrian Mountains Strategy*, and to test responses, Trustees are currently holding meetings with decision-makers throughout Mid-Wales. These include all MPs and AMs in the Cambrian Mountains area as well as representatives of Unitary Authorities and of the farming unions. In addition, Trustees have discussed the proposal with the Chief Executive of CCW and senior staff, with the Director of CPRW and with Professor Peter Midmore who is a member of the Assembly Government's Sustainable Farming and Environment Group (as well as being one of our own members).

### Campaigning

Increasingly we expect CMS to be a campaigning body – campaigning first to achieve AONB status and subsequently campaigning for the ideals that underlie that status. So far Trustees have consciously restricted campaigning activities in order to focus on developing the *Strategy*. Nevertheless, we have:

Expressed strong views on particular issues such as the Monks' Trod, youth hostel closures and wind turbines; and visited the Cribarth Quarry proposal.

Established a procedure for monitoring planning applications and related matters.

### Member Activities

The Trustees want to encourage member involvement to the greatest extent possible. So far, the following arrangements have been made:

With the help of Malcolm Tunley, a Walks Programme has been introduced. This gives members an opportunity both to experience parts of the Cambrian Mountains with which they may not be familiar and to meet other members in an informal atmosphere. Many thanks to our walks leaders, Bill Fitches, Clive Myhill, Wyck Gerson Lohman and Bill Britnell (leading for the Elan Valley Trust). More leaders needed!

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<sup>1</sup> The full title is *Cambrian Mountains – The Heart of Wales: Developing a Strategy for a Sustainable Future*.

Following the highly successful series of informal talks that followed the Special General Meeting in January, Anne Wilson is working on a programme of winter talks for 2007.

For those who are internet users, the CMS website and emails are an effective means of communication. Unavoidably, this sometimes means that internet users are at an advantage over other members but the Newsletter is a back up form of communication that goes to everyone.

### **Trustees and Organisational Matters**

A Special General Meeting was held in January to obtain members' approval for a change in the Objects clause of our Constitution. This was necessary in order to achieve charitable status (subsequently granted by the Charities Commission).

Trustees have considered the benefits of co-operating with other like-minded organisations. We were tempted to take a lead in the move to save the Elenydd Hostels, but felt that this was beyond our resources in our first year and with so much else to do; the Elenydd Wilderness Hostels Trust has now come into existence as a separate body and we wish it well. We have also been in discussions with the John Muir Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Ramblers' Association. We have joined the National (England and Wales) Association of AONBs. We are intending to apply for Associate Membership of Wales Environment Link, the network of voluntary environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations in Wales.

Apart from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, other members of the committee have taken on particular roles: Dave Bradney (planning), Pete Jennings (biodiversity), Dafydd Morris-Jones (publicity), Anne Wilson (membership secretary), Richard Wilson (website) and Martin Wright (newsletter). In addition, Malcolm Tunley has taken on the organisation of the walks programme

Eight Trustees were elected at the Inaugural Meeting in 2005. Since then Rhys Davies, our Secretary, has had to retire and we thank him for his contribution. Pete Jennings took on the role of Secretary. A better regional balance has been achieved by the co-option of two new Trustees, both from near Newbridge-on-Wye, Clive Myhill, a farmer, and Liz Fleming-Williams, a landscape photographer (amongst other things). Dafydd Morris-Jones, also a farmer, has very recently joined the committee.

Up to the end of October, the Trustees had met nine times during the year either at the Elan Valley Visitor Centre or at the homes of individual members.

*David Bateman*  
*31 October 2006*

**Cymdeithas Mynyddoedd Cambria - Cambrian Mountains Society**  
**Elusen Cofrestredig rhif 1113037 - Registered Charity no. 1113037**

**Financial Report 2005-2006**

**Income and Expenditure Account for period 20th April 2005 to 31st March 2006**

<b>Income</b>	£	£
Membership subscriptions	1460.00	
Donations	497.61	
Sub-total		1957.61
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Exhibition expenses May 05	149.19	
Refreshments launch event Oct 05	76.40	
Printing	375.00	
Postage & Stationery	22.95	
Insurance	157.50	
Sub-total		781.04
 <b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>		 1176.57

**Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2006**

<b>Assets</b>	£
Bank current account	1176.57
 <b>Liabilities</b>	
Surplus in year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2006	1176.57

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Without carrying out an audit, I have examined the books and records of the Cambrian Mountains Society and am satisfied that the Income and Expenditure Account as above is in accordance with them.

Douglas Blake FCA  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Blake & Co. Chartered Accountants  
Rasdens  
The Street  
Halvergate  
Norwich  
NR13 3AJ