



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2007/4, July-October 2007

NEXT DCA MEETING

DCA Open Council Meeting, 10am Saturday, 20th October 2007, Monyash Village Hall

The hall will be open from about 9.30am with tea, coffee & biscuits available. The Old Smithy Café next to the Pub does an excellent breakfast from about 9am.

Meetings for the rest of this year - all at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall:

AGM 2008: 23rd. February 2008

Remember that Council and Annual General Meetings are open to ALL members.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

If you have an email address, DCA has been using it to supply you with information more quickly and cheaply than by post. This complete current set of papers: Agenda, Information Circular and Publications Order form, are being sent out by post so that we can check whether we have the correct email address for you or your organisation. If we have an email address for you, there will be a slip enclosed giving what we believe is your current email address - if we're wrong, please email dca@theDCA.org.uk to give us the correction. (We'll send the Agenda & Information Circular by email as well.) If you have an email address we're not aware of and you would be happy for us to use it, please let us know. Don't forget that all Minutes, Reports, etc. are now posted on the DCA website at www.theDCA.org.uk.

As always, we will continue to post out the newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver" and the new DCA Handbook when it's ready.

CONSERVATION & ACCESS

If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please contact the Conservation Officer, Dave Webb, 0115-840-1109, conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk; or the Access Officer, Iain Barker, 0114-253-0112, 07710-689704, access-off@theDCA.org.uk.

Please note that, due to increasing quantities of "spam", the email address of access@theDCA.org.uk for general queries has been discontinued.

Water Icicle - Bad Air Report

We have had two reports this summer of bad air in NW passage in Water Icicle - equally, someone else has reported that all is clear. So be aware of the possibility and take care.

Carleswark Gin Entrance Collapse - Now Restored

We received a report that in Carleswark Gin Entrance, the rock on the lip of the second step down (the one everyone sits on and slides down) has dropped out, exposing the ginged wall and back fill, which will start to crumble and breakdown. The YHA group which reported it have now fixed the problem by simply re-arranging the boulders into shallow steps - thanks!

Devonshire Mine

A group of "cavers" (adults and kids, apparently from Nottingham) were spotted using the old show cave entrance to Devonshire on 26th July. Please, DON'T do this, stick to the authorised access through the gate by the footpath or it could jeopardise access for everyone.

Youds Level

David Webb visited Youd's Level in late August with Dave Ottewell of the Environment Agency and reports as follows: We took water samples at various points which will be analysed in due course and which will form the basis of any action that may be subsequently taken. Whilst we cannot be 100% certain at this stage as to the origins and nature of the pollution, there can be little doubt that it could pose a potential risk to health and as such we are of the opinion that it would be advisable for all to stay away until it is sorted. PDMHS have already taken the sensible precaution of refusing to issue the key to visiting parties and it is suggested that this action is continued, at least for the time being.

David will keep PDMHS posted of any developments as they occur, and of course it is imperative that any plan to remedy the situation is carried out with some urgency and is formulated to have a minimum amount of impact upon this important SSSI site and access to it.

Goodluck Mine Re-opens

As you may be aware the Goodluck Mine Preservation Club have taken over ownership from Ron Amner. They are trying to maintain, indeed, improve access, whilst preserving the mine and its artefacts. (See www.goodluckmine.org.) If you are interested, check out the website or contact David Barrie, Tel 07808-326469, Em. davylamp@hotmail.com.

SSSI Monitoring

Many thanks to Martin Milner Website for his SSSI monitoring website (set up on behalf of DCA) at <http://www.peakcavemonitoring.org.uk>.

DCA NEWSLETTER NO. 127

The next issue of the newsletter, "The Derbyshire Caver", is in hand. Please note that the Editor, Paul Lydon, has changed his address to Kirby House, Main Street, Winster, MATLOCK, Derbys. DE4 2DH. Telephone numbers remain the same: Tel: 01629 650482, Email: newsletter@theDCA.org.uk.

INSTALLATION OF ECO-ANCHORS

If you have any queries about Eco-anchors installed in the region, please contact the Equipment Officer, Dave Cowley, 0114-255-1285, 07956-560055, equipment@theDCA.org.uk.

Eco-anchors have now been installed in Nickergrove, along with a cable & ring Y-hang. Other sites suggested for Eco-anchors are: Giants (Filthy Five) and Winnats Head.

DCA TRAINING EVENTS, 2007-2008

The following Caver Training Events have been organized during the coming year - full details from Nigel. We will be giving out more details to everyone on the DCA/BCA Cavers Workshop nearer the date, for now, make sure you have it in your diaries.

CIC training December 1st & 2nd 2007

LC/MLA Cave Leader Training Level 1 December 3rd & 4th 2007

SRT training course December 8th & 9th 2007

LC/MLA Cave Leader Training Level 2 December 10th & 11th 2007

SRT rigging & Rescue course January 5th & 6th 2008

CIC training February 7th & 8th 2008

DCA / BCA Cavers Workshop May 29th & 30th 2007

For full details contact: Nigel Atkins, DCA Training Officer, training@theDCA.org.uk, Tel. 01283-210666, Mob. 07831-449919

BCRA SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM, SPRING 2008

The 19th British Cave Research Association Cave Science Symposium will be held on Saturday 8th March 2008 at the University of Loughborough. If you are interested, check out the BCRA website for more details: www.bcra.org.uk.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

www.theDCA.org.uk dca@theDCA.org.uk

12 October 2007

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