



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2010/3, October/December 2010

NEXT DCA MEETING

DCA Annual General Meeting, 26th. February 2011, 10am, Monyash Village Hall.

To be followed immediately by a brief open Council Meeting

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.

Note that, as agreed at the Council meeting on 30th. October, we are considering changing the times of the remaining 2 Council meetings for the coming year to hold them on mid-week evenings, instead of on Saturday mornings. We'd welcome your comments for or against this proposed change.

CAVES OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

At long last it's with us, though a little later than we'd planned - but we're sure you'll think it's worth the wait! All pre-publication orders are now being sent out and the book will be on sale in Peak District caving shops and bookshops from the New Year, price £20. Copies will also be on sale at the DCA AGM and at Council meetings during the year. The book can now be ordered direct from DCA by post at a price of £21.60, including postage - send your cheque, payable to DCA, to: *Hon. Treasurer: Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, DE6 3FE*

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, or Asst. Conservation Officer: Christine Wilson, 01433-621149, 07713-416455, both on conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk. Alternatively, contact the Access Officer: Iain Barker, 0114-264-7561, 07710-689704, access-off@theDCA.org.uk.

THE NEW EXTENSIONS AT WATER ICICLE CLOSE CAVERN

A reminder that details of arrangements for a visit to the new extensions in Water Icicle are on the Orpheus website at www.orpheuscavingclub.org.uk. DCA Member Clubs will now be able to have their own Volunteer Leader, (see Minutes of the DCA Council meeting on 30th. October, item 5.2.b) - contact Orpheus via the website for details.

ACCESS TO DEVONSHIRE MINE, MATLOCK BATH

A reminder of access conditions:

1. The lower entrance to Devonshire Mine, next to the public footpath leading from Upperwood Road to Ember Farm, is the **ONLY** entrance to be used - a large adjustable spanner is needed to undo the bolts on the gate. (The woodland above the path is private property and all former entrances in the wood are now blocked and out of bounds.)
2. No cars are to be parked anywhere on Upperwood Road or in the turning circle at the end of the road. (Local residents object to this and will put pressure on the owner to close the mine if it continues to happen.) Visitors should park in one of the car parks lower down in Matlock Bath and walk up to the entrance. (Alternatively, walk down the footpath from Ember Lane.)

Access to the site has presented problems in the past and DCA members have repaired the wall and stile alongside the footpath and stabilized and gated the entrance so that it requires only an adjustable spanner to get in. To enable this to continue requires that everyone is careful not to upset the landowner, though whose garden the footpath runs, or the residents living on Upperwood Road. Please ensure that parties behave sensibly while walking up the road and that no litter is left in the road or on the footpath.

MINESHAFTS ON BRADWELL MOOR

A reminder that there is currently no access to shafts on land farmed by Mr. Hadfield: Long Rake Mine (the scene of an incident involving carbon monoxide poisoning last year), Bird Mine, New Venture Mine, etc.

CLOSURE OF GLEBE MINE, POSSIBLE HYDROLOGICAL EFFECTS

Extraction work has now ceased at Glebe Mine and it is hoped that, in due course and following negotiations, some of the mines in the complex will become accessible for cavers. However, for the moment the whole area is still considered to be private property, part of a working mine complex and normal security arrangements will remain in force until all machinery has been removed and the mine closed down, which will take another two years. Please do not jeopardise negotiations by attempting to enter the system without permission, we'll keep you informed.

As the pumps which de-watered parts of the Glebe Mine complex have now been turned off it is likely that there will be effects on the hydrology of some other systems in the Stoney Middleton area. It is possible that some passages in other caves/mines in the area may sump completely and others may be passable only in settled dry weather. It would be helpful to keep track of all changes at the various sites likely to be affected, so information should be forwarded to John Beck at john.beck6@btinternet.com and we'll keep everyone informed via DCA.

ACCESS BAN FOR CAVERS AT ELDON QUARRY

Sorry, but cavers are still banned from Eldon Quarry, following an incident in August. Please be patient while DCA tries to re-negotiate access.

DCA CONSERVATION ROADSHOW

Following some other recent caving/conservation presentations, Chris Wilson and Dave Webb are to put together a selection of slides, text and short video for showing at club evenings to show the value and extent of the work we do, and to promote the new Digging Guidelines. It won't eat too much into valuable drinking time so if you are interested would you please contact Chris or Dave. Both can be contacted on conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk, or by phone: Dave Webb, 0115-840-1109; Christine Wilson, 01433-621149, 07713-416455.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

If you have any queries or problems about Equipment or Safety in the region, please contact the DCA Equipment Officer: Jules Barrett, 07730-981857, equipment@theDCA.org.uk or DCA Projects Officer: Martyn Grayson, 07976-953089, projects@theDCA.org.uk.

NEW P-HANGERS TO BE INSTALLED IN J.H.

Because of the unstable nature of the false floor in the cartgate leading to the head of J.H. first pitch (large holes are now appearing in the false floor with lengthy drops below them), it has been agreed that DCA will place a series of P-hangers along the passage to enable cavers to rig a traverse line to safeguard themselves. As soon as we have details of these and rope lengths required to safeguard this section of passage, we'll let you know.

Please note that DCA itself does NOT install traverse ropes - cavers are expected to provide and rig their own ropes and to remove them on leaving. Any ropes found left in place are not subject to inspection by DCA and should not be relied upon.

WOODEN PLATFORMS REMOVED FROM GARDEN PATH SHAFT

As part of conservation measures agreed some time ago, the wooden platforms in the entrance shaft of Garden Path (originally placed when fixed ladders were installed in the shaft many years ago) are now being removed. All existing P-hangers will remain in place but you will no longer have platforms to stand on when rigging.

For details of access to Garden Path, contact the DCA Access Officer, Iain Barker, access-off@theDCA.org.uk or by phone on 0114-264-7561, 07710-689704.

DUTY OF CARE

DCA's Legal and Insurance Officer gives the following advice: The BCA Insurance Scheme applies to clubs undertaking digs and/or projects involving stabilising pitches or collapsed passages. Clubs have a duty of care to ensure others do not come to grief through any negligence on the clubs' part. At the same time an important function of liability insurance is to indemnify clubs in the event of such negligence claims by aggrieved parties. It follows that any excavation or stabilisation work should be done with a view to minimising the risks to those people who go on to put their faith (not to say their lives) in the effectiveness and safety of such work.

BCA / DCA P.L. INSURANCE & SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011

At the BCA Council meeting in October it was announced that there would be no rise in insurance premiums for 2011 and hence all BCA subscriptions would remain as for 2010.

DCA Club and Associate Members pay NO subscription to DCA itself as BCA now funds DCA administrative, conservation & access and equipment expenses. However, Clubs and Associates must be members of BCA in order to retain their membership of DCA - so don't forget to pay your BCA subscription on time.

DCA Individual Members pay a subscription of £10.00 per year to DCA, with a reduced rate of only £7.00 per year if you are a BCA Direct Individual Member. Subscriptions for 2011 are now due so, if you don't already pay DCA by Standing Order, please send your cheque, payable to DCA, to:

Hon. Treasurer, Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, DE6 3FE

BCA SAFETY CARDS

Included with this circulation is a sample of a laminated "Safety Information Card" produced by BCA and intended to be freely available on shop counters and to be sent to all cavers signing up for the LCMLA. In return for sponsorship from DCA, the DCA logo and web address appear on the cards, which can be made available for DCA members as well as to the general caving public. The information on the cards would be well known to most experienced cavers but not to many entering caving as a beginner, so clubs are encouraged to obtain a supply of the cards to hand to new members joining as novices. For details of how to obtain cards for your club, please contact the BCA Training Administrator, Mary Wilde: trainadmin@british-caving.org.uk, or phone 01629-581113.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

28 December 2010

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