



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2012/2, January-May 2012

NEXT DCA MEETING

Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 23rd June 2012

All meetings start at 10am, Monyash Village Hall.

Further Meetings: Open Council Meeting Saturday, 3rd. November 2012.

AGM 2013: Saturday, 23rd. February 2013 followed by Council Meeting

REMINDER - SUBSCRIPTIONS, 2012

Individual members: if you haven't paid yet, it's £10.00 or, for BCA Direct Individual Members (DIM), only £7.00. Please send your cheque, payable to DCA, direct to:

DCA Treasurer, Wayne Sheldon, 5 Hawthorne Close, Erdington, Birmingham. B23 5NQ.

Em. finance@theDCA.org.uk Mob. 07941-211209

Clubs and Associate Members must be paid up BCA members in order to retain their DCA membership.

DCA OFFICERS FOR 2012-13

The following officers were appointed at the AGM on 25th. February to serve for the coming year:

Chairman:	Bob Dearman	chairman@theDCA.org.uk	01298-85594
Vice-Chairman:	Terry Jackson	vice-chair@theDCA.org.uk	01663-750647
Secretary:	Jenny Potts	secretary@theDCA.org.uk	01335-370629
Treasurer:	Wayne Sheldon	finance@theDCA.org.uk	07941-211209
Conservation Officer:	Dave Webb	conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk	0115-840-1109
Asst. Cons. Officer:	Chris Wilson	conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk	01433-621149
Projects Officer:	Martyn Grayson	projects@theDCA.org.uk	07976-953089
Legal & Insurance Officer:	Pete Mellors	legal.insurance@theDCA.org.uk	01623-882515
Equipment Officer:	Jules Barrett	equipment@theDCA.org.uk	07730-981857
Training Officer:	Nigel Atkins	training@theDCA.org.uk	01283-210666
Newsletter Editor:	Paul Lydon	newsletter@theDCA.org.uk	01629-650482
Asst. Sec./Planning Liaison:	Chris Broome	asst-sec@theDCA.org.uk	01629-824512
Cave Registry Secretary:	John Beck	john.beck@btinternet.com	01433-631732

Access Officer for Garden Path Entrance to Lathkill Head Cave and for Ashford Marble Mine is now Karen Slatcher: access-off@theDCA.org.uk.

Iain Barker, formerly DCA Access Officer, stood down at the AGM after many years of service to DCA, as Newsletter Editor, then Access Officer and also as joint Editor of the new "Caves of the Peak District". Our thanks to Iain for all his hard work on DCA's behalf.

No new Access Officer was proposed at the meeting so Karen Slatcher has kindly offered to look after issuing keys for Garden Path and Ashford Marble Mine for the time being. If anyone would like to take on the post of Access Officer, please contact the DCA Secretary. (At present Dave Webb and Pete Mellors are fielding queries re. access.)

Projects Officer, Martyn Grayson, would like to hand over to someone else as he is doing a lot of travelling in his "day job" and is having difficulty in finding the time to fulfil the Projects Officer post. If you are interested, please contact Martyn direct or DCA Chairman Bob Dearman.

CONSERVATION & ACCESS

If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please contact the Conservation Officer or Asst. Conservation Officer: both on conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk.

Boulder Pot Access

Boulder Pot has been re-opened, thanks to efforts by the DCA Conservation & Access Team. Visitors do not need to call at the farm for permission. Parking is available on the roadside verge, but please keep farm gates clear for tractors, etc. A large adjustable spanner is required to undo the two securing nuts on the lid – these nuts to be left fastened up **tight** (important!) before leaving. Please drop the lid behind you during your trip, to prevent harm to livestock in the field or to inquisitive walkers. It is advisable for all visitors to have liability insurance cover.

NB. This cave should be regarded as severe, i.e. at least Grade IV rather than the Grade II shown in COTPD. It is not recommended for novices or trainees.

Holme Bank Chert Mine:

The owner makes a request for donations to the Alzheimers Society in which he has a personal interest. Donations of up to £2 per head are optional but welcome. (Cash or cheque to Alzheimers Society.)

NEW DCA MATERIALS (and equipment) STORE

THANKS to a generous grant from Natural England, DCA has been able to acquire a secure shipping container which is to be kept on site at Cavendish Mill near Stoney Middleton.

WE PLAN to spend the balance of the NE Grant on stocking the store with shaft capping, digging, restoration and conservation materials, etc., plus a small stock of equipment.

DETAILS of what items are held in stock and how to obtain them will soon be available on our website at <http://www.thedca.org.uk/>

PLEASE COMPLY with strict security rules laid down by the site owners (*24hr surveillance and CCTV are in operation*) and abide by guidelines issued by DCA. Failure to do so will result in our being kicked off the site!

CONTACT DCA Conservation Officer Dave Webb for requests and further details at

conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk

Dave Webb. DCA Conservation Officer. March 5th 2012

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 Handlines in JH Cartgate

New handlines are being placed on the two traverses in JH Cartgate, using the Eco-anchors already placed by DCA. The new handlines, supplied by BCA and placed by Roy Rodgers in agreement with DCA, are part of an ongoing investigation by BCA into how ropes stand up to use when they are left underground for a length of time. The ropes are placed on the following understanding:

- that DCA will inform its members that these ropes are being placed as part of an investigation;
- the placement is not DCA's responsibility;
- that there is no onus on DCA to check the ropes;
- that Roy Rodgers will be checking the ropes, etc.;
- that any queries should go direct to Roy.

In case of any queries, please contact Roy Rodgers direct: Email royro@supanet.com Mob. 07729 514 326. Bob Mehew, BCA Rope Test Officer, is masterminding the investigation: Email rope@british-caving.org.uk Tel. 01704 569107.

Non-functioning Nettle Pot Pull-thro's

Martyn Grayson has reported that the two pull-thro's in Nettle pot are no longer operative. One pull-thro' can only be used with great difficulty and it was noted that the steel karabiners have worn through to half their normal thickness. The second pull-thro' has jammed solid and, for the time being a fixed rope has been installed to enable access to a dig. Both pull-thro's will be replaced as soon as possible by a cable and ring system but this may take a few weeks to construct and install. We'll keep you informed.

CLIFFHANGER 2012 – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

There will be a DCA "presence" at Cliffhanger, it's at Graves Park, Sheffield this year on Saturday and Sunday, 7th. & 8th. July. We will have both the DCA and the BCA artificial caves and will also be running the ladder & line sessions. Past years have meant literally hundreds, mainly children and young people, wanting to have a go at the activities so we need lots of volunteers to help. Nigel Atkins is organising the ladder and line sessions and Boyd Potts is overall organiser for DCA. If you are able to spare some time, even a few hours, on Saturday, Sunday or Friday evening when we will be setting up, please contact Boyd direct: boyd_p@btinternet.com or phone 01335-370629. (Boyd will be away till the beginning of June but you can leave a message.)

THE BRITISH CAVING LIBRARY

Enclosed with this circular is a leaflet giving information about the British Caving Library, which is actually sited in Derbyshire, only a short distance from Buxton. The Library has already proved its worth in supplying information to help with DCA conservation and access issues and we hope that Peak District clubs will send a copy of each of their publications to the Library. At present the Library is being completely re-catalogued and the information is supplied to the online catalogue which is being built up. We would welcome volunteers to help with many jobs which need doing for the Library: cataloguing, identifying vintage caving photos, etc. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jenny Potts, who is the Library Co-ordinator: j.potts@bcra.org.uk or tel. 01335-370629. To find out more, log on to the Library website at www.caving-library.org.uk.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

www.theDCA.org.uk

3 May 2012

*Hon. Secretary: Jenny Potts,
3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, DE6 3FE
Tel. 01335-370629
Email. secretary@theDCA.org.uk*