



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Information Circular 2012/3, June-August 2012

### NEXT DCA MEETING

**Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 3rd. November 2012.**

**All meetings start at 10am, Monyash Village Hall.**

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

### CHANGES TO DCA OFFICERS FOR 2012-13

**Projects Officer:** Martyn Grayson has had to stand down as DCA Projects Officer due to pressure of work – many thanks for all he has done over the past few years. His place has been taken by Dan Hibberts, contact details: Tel. 01298-402158, Mob. 07846-526463, Em. [projects@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:projects@theDCA.org.uk).

**Asst. Conservation Officer:** Christine Wilson has also had to stand down as Asst. Conservation Officer – thanks for all the hard work she has done during the past few years to help lighten the load on our Conservation Officer, Dave Webb. The post is currently vacant and Dave would welcome offers of help from someone willing to take on the post of Asst. Conservation Officer.

**Acting Equipment Officer:** Bob Dearman has taken over for the time being as Acting Equipment Officer as Jules Barratt has had to stand down due to pressure of work. Contact details for Bob: Tel. 01298-85594, Mob. 07855-920087, Em. [equipment@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:equipment@theDCA.org.uk).

**Treasurer:** Wayne Sheldon, the DCA Treasurer is currently in the process of moving house so please don't post anything to him at his Birmingham address until you are advised of his new address in Sheffield. If need be, contact him on Mob. 07941-211209 or Em. [finance@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:finance@theDCA.org.uk).

### CONSERVATION & ACCESS

**If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please contact the Conservation Officer on [conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk).**

#### Giants Hole Litter problem

Message received from Peter Knight in early June:

Just letting people know. Recently at Giants a few of us from Hollowford have cleared a fair few beer bottles/cans/broken glass out of the cave. Wednesday night I did so again, this time the culprits were still in there - SH58 ULB, Vectra, 4 blokes, late 20's?! Just for you to be aware as they are parking as close to the entrance as they can get and the cave stinks of booze and fags when you walk in.

#### Waterfall Swallet

Following the appearance of "Keep Out" notices on the land a few weeks ago the access situation is unclear so best to stay away for the present. DCA is working to ensure that access can be maintained for cavers so we'll keep you informed. If you do go there, please, under no circumstances block the track.

#### Eldon Quarry Caves

All access to the caves in the quarry is banned at present following some incidents last year which upset the tenant farmer. DCA is working to resolve the situation but, for the time being, please stay away.

#### Rowter Hole Lid

Dan Hibberts, the new DCA Projects Officer, has fitted a new lid which requires a 30mm or adjustable spanner to open it. The catch has been re-designed to preclude losing the locking nut. The nut just needs to be loosened and the catch rotated through 90 degrees to open the lid. There is no necessity to take it completely off the stud. Users are requested to lock down the nut after use to safeguard the public and stock.

This arrangement is likely to be used on other lids and will replace the existing arrangement where the stud fits through a hole in the lid.

#### Carbon Dioxide excess reported in Gautries

There is a report of excess Carbon Dioxide in the lower sections of Gautries during the week leading to 18th. August. This was in the section beyond the small duck/dive, in the terminal chamber on the down climb to the lower muddy pit where the digs are. Those involved reported that after an hour in this area they experienced headaches, high heart rates and difficulty in climbing back up the in-situ ropes.

### CLIFFHANGER 2012 – CANCELLED

Sadly, Cliffhanger had to be cancelled at the last minute (midday on Friday, 6th.), on the instructions of Sheffield City Council. Flood warnings affecting the city of Sheffield meant that the City Council were no longer able to provide the support staff needed. Thanks to all those who had offered to help with the DCA activities on the 7/8 July – we hope to be there at next year's event and will need your help then.

## EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

**If you have any queries or problems about Equipment or Safety in the region, please contact the DCA Acting Equipment Officer: Bob Dearman or DCA Projects Officer: Dan Hibberts.**

### **Further update on Bitch Pitch collapse in JH:**

A major rockfall was reported on Bitch Pitch at the end of May and a check was made on the situation in June. A further inspection of Bitch Pitch was undertaken on the 13th August 2012 to see if there had been any further collapses since the last reported collapse. Nothing more looked to have fallen down the pitch but a more detailed look revealed that there were more tailings remaining than we had previously thought.

Using the crowbars that we had taken with us, we did some controlled removal of the spoil. Just poking the loose tailings, loosened several large rocks at the bottom of the pile; this resulted in these falling down the pitch. Quite a lot of rocks and loose tailings were removed and dropped down the pitch. Two of us spent up to one hour removing the tailings and deads until we ran out of arm strength.

We have cut it right back but there still remains some to be removed and more stabilisation work needs to be undertaken. The remainder of the pitch, including the bolts below this collapse haven't been checked either so, until this has been undertaken, you are strongly advised not to descend Bitch Pitch until further notice. A notice has also been put on the lid to this effect.

Thanks to Wayne Sheldon for this report.

## DCRO 60TH ANNIVERSARY

DCRO is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a stomp at the Hope Cement Works Social Club on Saturday 29th September, and we would like as many local (and not so local!) cavers to join us as possible. The fine details are still a bit hazy and will follow later, but there will be plenty of beer and a band, so what more do you need! I'm hoping to put together some photos of DCRO in action so if anyone has any photos of shouts/training/anything else then please let me know - [clare.harley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clare.harley@hotmail.co.uk), or 07910 055248.

See you all there! Clare Harley

PS - Just so it doesn't come as a surprise on the night - as a charity we're not really meant to spend our funds on parties, so there will probably be a collection on the door/compulsory raffle/something similar to cover the costs of the venue and band.

## HIDDEN EARTH - 21-23 SEPTEMBER, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE

The Hidden Earth team can now announce that Hidden Earth 2012 will take place over the weekend 21-23 September at Thomas Whitham Sixth Form College, Burnley, Lancashire. Burnley is close to the M65 motorway and just a few miles short of Skipton on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. For further information please visit

<http://hidden-earth.org.uk>.

## THE UNTAMED RIVERS OF NEW BRITAIN EXPEDITION 2006 REPORT

A message from Dave Gill: The Untamed Rivers of New Britain Expedition 2006 report, Nakanai Mountains, East New Britain PNG can now be downloaded as a pdf from

<http://www.daveclucas.com/cms/index.php/9-news/173-untamed-rivers-report>

## NEWS OF THE NEW EUROPELEO-MAGAZINE

It's with a great pleasure that the FSE announces to you the official launching of its new publication called EUROPELEO-MAGAZINE, your new free speleological online magazine! In it, you can publish all the articles that you or your club have already written or would like to publish soon. This multilingual magazine full of nice photos will be read by the 50,000 cavers from the 2000 European speleological clubs all over Europe. So we invite to send us your article as soon as possible. All the information needed is here: <http://www.eurospeleo.org/call-appel-articles.pdf>

## HELP FOR SPELOLOGICAL PROJECTS FROM F.S.E.

The European Federation (FSE) helps every speleological project including at least 4 European countries (or 2 + 1 country from FEALC, Africa or Middle East) through the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) fund. With its Official Partners, the FSE supports with material and financial grants from 400 to 2500 euros all types of projects (educational, technical or scientific training, exploration and youth camps, expeditions in or outside Europe, media publications (books, films, software, photos, etc.), caving meetings (festival, symposium, exhibitions, congresses, etc). The new updated request form valid from the 1st of August 2012 can be found at :

[www.eurospeleo.org/main6/eurospeleo-projects/eurospeleo-projects-funding-application-form-v0-5.rtf](http://www.eurospeleo.org/main6/eurospeleo-projects/eurospeleo-projects-funding-application-form-v0-5.rtf)

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

[www.theDCA.org.uk](http://www.theDCA.org.uk)

20th August 2012

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