



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2013/2, March to April 2013

NEXT DCA MEETING

Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 22nd. June 2013, 10am, Monyash Village Hall.

Other meetings: Open Council Meeting, Sat. 2nd. Nov. 10am, Monyash Village Hall.
AGM 2014, Sat. 22nd. Feb. 2014, 10am, Monyash Village Hall (followed by Open Council meeting).

DCA OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014

At the 2013 DCA AGM the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year. Note that there are vacancies; we have one volunteer so far to stand for Access Officer (subject to co-option at the next Council Meeting) but we urgently need a Conservation Officer and Assistant. If you think you can help, please contact the DCA Chairman in the first instance.

Chairman:	Bob Dearman	<u>chairman@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Vice-Chairman:	Terry Jackson	<u>vice-chair@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Secretary:	Jenny Potts	<u>secretary@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Treasurer:	Wayne Sheldon	<u>finance@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Conservation Officer:		Post vacant.
Asst. Conservation Officer:		Post vacant.
Access Officer:		Post vacant.
Asst. Access Off:	Karen Slatcher	<u>access-off@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Projects Officer:	Dan Hibberts	<u>projects@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Legal & Insurance Officer:	Pete Mellors	<u>legal.insurance@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Equipment Officer:	Bob Dearman	<u>equipment@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Training Officer:	Nigel Atkins	<u>training@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Newsletter Editor:	Paul Lydon	<u>newsletter@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Asst. Sec./Planning Liaison:	Chris Broome	<u>asst-sec@theDCA.org.uk</u>
Cave Registry Secretary:	John Beck	<u>john.beck6@btinternet.com</u>

CONSERVATION & ACCESS

If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please email conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk, or alternatively, contact the DCA Chairman on chairman@theDCA.org.uk or tel. 01298-85594.

If you are interested in taking on the post of Conservation Officer, for further details please contact Dave Webb direct on conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk. The Assistant Access Officer, Karen Slatcher, will continue to deal with access to Ashford Black Marble Mine and the Garden Path entrance to Lathkill Head Cave.

Darfar Pot and other sites in the Manifold Valley

Thanks to Mel Milner and Rob Thorne of Darfar P.C. for repairs to the fencing round Waterways Swallet (the maintenance of the fence being a requirement of the access agreement with Okeover Estates). Thanks also to Mel and her team for reconstruction of the gates on Darfar Pot and Riverside Swallet and other work in the Manifold Valley. All these sites require a large adjustable spanner to open the gate.

Eldon Hill Quarry Access

Pete Mellors has informed us that restoration of access has now been agreed in principle between DCA, Chatsworth Estates, Natural England, and tenant Maurice Gregory. The precise terms are still being negotiated but are expected to be reasonably flexible. Cavers are asked to please continue to stay away till then so as not to jeopardise the outcome. The full agreement terms and start date are due to be posted soon on the DCA website. Thanks are owed meanwhile to Ron Hammond for his excellent survey and the part it has played in getting negotiations started.

Access to Bakewell Area Mines

Misinformation regarding access has recently appeared on a website relating to underground exploration. Correct information is as given in full in the **Peak District Access & Rigging Guide**. Summarising:

Rookery (Ashford Black Marble Mine): Contact DCA Assistant Access Officer Karen Slatcher with details of your insurance. You will then be sent a card to show at Ibbotson's shop to obtain the key, which you return to them later.

Arrocks Mine: The only key is the one at the Peak District Mining Museum.

Holme Bank Chert Mine: Permission must be obtained from Mr. Oldfield whose firm is based next to the mine (phone mid-week); you must have valid P.L. insurance cover. Mr. Oldfield makes a request for voluntary donations of up to £2 per head to the charity The Alzheimers Society.

Wharf Pipe Shaft lid

The lid on Wharf Pipe shaft is in need of repair as the weld has broken so it cannot be fastened down properly using a spanner. Orpheus C.C. have the welding job in hand and hope to be able restore the lid to working order shortly.

Democratic Dig acquires a gate

Democratic Dig (CoPD p.172) has had to be gated at the request of the local Councillor who was worried about children falling down the entrance. Thanks to DCA for the supply of weld-mesh and to Orpheus C.C. members for the work. A large adjustable spanner can be used to gain entrance.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

If you have any queries or problems about Equipment or Safety in the region, please contact the DCA

Equipment Officer: Bob Dearman Tel. 01298-85594, Mob. 07855-920087, Em. equipment@theDCA.org.uk or
DCA Projects Officer: Dan Hibberts projects@theDCA.org.uk, Mob. 07846-526463.

Anchor testing

Two documents on Anchor testing in Yordas Cave have recently been issued by the Equipment & Techniques Committee. They are:

Eco anchor long term test report 13th October 2012

Eco and BP anchor long term test bed anchor placement report, 20th October 2012

Both can be downloaded from the DCA website.

Suicide Cave Boulder is now moving

There have been a number of warnings about unstable boulders in Suicide Cave. The most recent arrived from Adam Evans at the beginning of April:

"I'm just dropping you a line to let folks know the far pitch at the back of the cave is now showing signs of serious instability. A piece of rock on the right wall just before the Y-hang has been epoxy tell-tailed. It's has been under observation for a few years and was even looked at by Dave Carlisle the Mines inspector. Whilst on the pitch yesterday both myself and another saw the boulder crack line open, felt the slab move and heard the rock make a "doon" sound as we tapped it with our feet. It's concerning the epoxy tell-tales don't seem to give this impression, yet I assure you it's moving... Should it fall, it's likely to cause a cascade effect inside the cave as it will land on a suspended boulder choke below."

CO₂ Monitoring for Cavers

DCA recently issued a document written by Alan Brentnall giving advice about the choice and use of meters for monitoring levels of CO₂ in caves and mines. It is not suggested that clubs **must** use a meter but, in some circumstances, it may be helpful. If you do use a meter, please send readings to Alan at gasman@theDCA.org.uk; these readings are being collated in order to draw up a more accurate picture of where and why there are increased levels of CO₂ at some Derbyshire underground sites.

DCA HANDBOOK UPDATE

Add to the list of Accommodation for cavers on page 3:9 the following:

Carlswark Cottage (Derbyshire Pennine Club) in Stoney Middleton.

Contact: Richard Harris Tel. 01565 755613, Em. dpchut@gmail.com, Website: www.thedpc.co.uk

JOINT BCA/BCRA PARTY WEEKEND AT CASTLETON

All members of BCA and BCRA have now received the notice about the Joint Party Weekend at the **Rotary Centre, Castleton on 14th. to 16th. June**. There is cheap accommodation, staying at the Centre or camping in the grounds; beer will be £2/pint; the bar will be run by the Hidden Earth Team; there will be a £5 Hog Roast and buffet on Saturday night and a free party for all. Full programme and booking details on the BCA website: www.british-caving.org.uk

Friday, 14th. June: Cavers' Bar

Saturday, 15th. June:

10.00 to 17.30 During the daytime BCRA is running a number of workshops and activities on the Saturday - all are free of charge but you will need to pre-book for them as numbers will be limited.

10.30 to 17.30 The British Caving Library at Glutton Bridge (just south of Buxton) will have an Open Day.

18.00 Slideshow on Major Overseas Expedition.

19.30 Hog Roast & Buffet.

20.30 to 01.00 Live Band & Disco (free) plus Late Bar.

Sunday, 16th. June:

10.30 BCA Annual General Meeting. All Club and Individual members welcome

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

www.theDCA.org.uk

30th. April 2013

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Tel. 01335-370629
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