



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Information Circular 2013/4, July to October 2013

### NEXT DCA MEETING

Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 2nd. November 2013, 10am, Monyash Village Hall

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE DCA AGM 2014, NOW ON SAT. 1ST. MARCH. 2014**

The AGM will be followed, as usual, by an Open Council meeting

### CONSERVATION & ACCESS

If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please email Mel Milner on [conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk), Ewan Cameron on [access-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:access-off@theDCA.org.uk) or tel. 07966-184308 or, alternatively, contact the DCA Chairman, Bob Dearman, on [chairman@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:chairman@theDCA.org.uk) or tel. 01298-85594.

#### Devonshire Mine

The Devonshire Mine Gate was removed, the hole temporarily blocked and the gate refettled and replaced, all within less than a week between 9th. and 15th. September. Thanks to all those who helped with the work: Adam Russell for masterminding the project, Colum Walsh for assisting in removing the door, Ric Allen for keeping an eye on the place during the week, Nick Williams for use of his oxy-propane torch, and Bob Dearman for the loan of the BCA Hilti drill. Thanks too to Nigel Atkins who, on Tuesday of the following week, re-fixed the ladder inside so that it's now bolted to the solid rock to one side of the door, at right-angles to the door, so it is now stable and secure.

Note that the bolt is pretty stiff and you will definitely need an adjustable spanner or mole grips to open the gate from the outside. Please ensure that you fasten it behind you when you go in so that nobody can enter after you unnoticed and be accidentally shut inside the mine.

There is still some work to be done later this year on stabilising the surround to prevent movement of the frame in future - but there should not be any problems with the gate now. The graffiti left by vandals during the summer is being removed as fast as possible so that the mine can be restored to its former state.

Please note also that, at the request of the owner, this gated entrance next to the public footpath is the only entrance to the mine that may be used. Other entrances have been sealed.

#### Nickergrove Mine

It was reported at the end of July that someone tried to do the through trip from the internal shaft to Didsbury but found a large boulder (3 x 2 x 1 ft approx.) blocking the third descent. (This is the free climb just after the upward squeeze.) Thanks to Ewan Cameron and Orpheus C.C. members the boulder has been "sorted" and the way is clear again.

#### Wharf Pipe Climbing Shaft lid

The lid on Wharf Pipe shaft has been repaired by Orpheus C.C. so that it can now be fastened down properly using a spanner. However, it needs further attention at some time to alter the fitting so that it cannot be damaged by the lid falling onto the projecting bolt - this is in hand to be done in due course.

#### Waterfall Swallet

The land has now been sold and access to the Swallet will continue as before. So, for the time being, stick to the advice given in DCA Circular 2012/4 and don't forget to email Mark Noble at [eyam\\_explorers@talk21.com](mailto:eyam_explorers@talk21.com) so he can advise the owners that cavers will be on their land.

#### Pindale Quarry Caravan Site proposal

This proposal has been withdrawn in the face of determined opposition by various local people concerned at the potential traffic problems on the narrow lane and also by cavers who drew attention to the conservation issues associated with the site and its nearness to historic leadmine sites.

#### Jug Holes Adit

The bolt on the Jug Holes adit gate is still not working properly - this entrance should be left bolted spanner-tight (a requirement of the landowner) but this is impossible at present although the gate can be held shut by the chain on the bolt. Work is in hand to sort this so be prepared and take a spanner with you when you visit Jugholes.

#### Suicide Cave Boulders are still moving

There continue to be warnings about unstable boulders in Suicide Cave at various sites, some of them old problems, some new. Most problems are posted on UKcaving shortly after they happen so it may be worth keeping a watch on this.

## 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](mailto:equipment@theDCA.org.uk) or  
DCA Projects Officer: Dan Hibberts [projects@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:projects@theDCA.org.uk), Mob. 07846-526463.

### Bolting Projects ready to go ahead

At long last a suitable replacement for the DMM Eco-anchors (since DMM stopped producing them) has become available. The first batch of the new BP anchors will be placed by DCA-trained installers in Cliff Cavern, as requested by the Peak key-holders, this is being organised and the new drills, etc. bought for the job.

### A Reminder that Dan Needs Your Help

There is a tremendous amount of work being done to maintain access for cavers in the Peak District and Dan Hibberts, the Projects Officer, is under great pressure. If anyone is able to offer practical help and has some expertise and/or suitable kit to help with installing lids on shafts or making safe gates on levels, Dan would like to hear from you.

## THEFT OF ROPE FROM A PITCH

On Sunday, 8th. September, at around 1.30 to 2.30pm, a rope belayed at the top of Eldon Hill Quarry and used to descend to Sidetrack Cave was de-rigged by would-be thieves. Luckily the cavers in Sidetrack came out just in time to see "... *two guys on the top north edge of the quarry (nearest the entrance) chucking stones in, and generally mooching about. On reaching the rope, we noticed it had gone ...*". The cavers shouted and the two suspect people disappeared and, on climbing up to the belay point and searching around, the cavers found their rope coiled up in the tackle bag and other gear left behind near where they had seen the two would-be thieves.

This type of theft has not happened for a while in the Peak District but it has happened before and may do again. So be aware that thieves are about and take whatever precautions you can; remember that, even if your rope is tied off at the bottom of the pitch so that it can't be pulled up, the would-be thieves can still interfere with the knots and the rigging.

Remember also the condition for visiting caves in Eldon Hill Quarry - the main ones, in summary, are:

At the farmer's insistence all vehicles must be parked on the lane and under no circumstances driven into the Quarry or Quarry area. His gate must be kept fastened and entry left clear at all times. Visitors to understand they enter and explore the Quarry entirely at their own risk but should carry proof of valid Public Liability insurance cover.

DCA has installed a box over the wall next to the entrance gate. The box (a modified ornate letter box actually, clamped to a bar with the key on a chain tucked out of sight in one end of the bar) contains a logbook, pens, and a survey of the Quarry marking and naming all the known caves and dig sites. Cavers are asked to record their visits and name the site visited. New sites should be given a name and added to the survey.

Full details of the access agreement are on the DCA website.

## OUTDOOR FIRST AID COURSES

There are still spaces left on the following **Outdoor First Aid** courses:

**26 & 27th October, Worcester and 12 & 13th November, Ironbridge, Shropshire**

These are two day (16 hour) courses and suitable for validating NGB Outdoor Instructor Awards. The courses are very hands on and practical, designed to give you the confidence to deal with real situations. They are aimed at anyone working or playing in the outdoors, whether a group leader or lone worker. **Discount for cavers.** For information or to book a course, please contact Cara by one of the means below. Thanks.

Cara Allison, A2E First Aid Training. Tel. 07854 695178, E-m. [cara.firstaid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cara.firstaid@yahoo.co.uk), Further information on the website: [www.a2efirstaidtraining.co.uk](http://www.a2efirstaidtraining.co.uk)

## TALK BY LEO HOULDING - SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY, THURS, 7 NOV 2013

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD STUDENTS' UNION AUDITORIUM AT 9:30

In November mountaineer Leo Houlding will be presenting a lecture in the Students' Union Auditorium, accompanied with world-class photography and film-footage shot by the multi award winning film-maker Alastair Lee.

'If modern British adventure has a face, it looks a lot like Leo Houlding.' A climbing prodigy who started by scaling the Old Man of Hoy at just ten years old, 31-year-old Leo has climbed the most difficult and highest mountains in the world. In search of ever greater adventure, 2012 took Leo to the wildest, least accessible and most contrasting corners of Earth - deep into the Amazon jungle and to the centre of the Antarctic wilderness.

Tickets can be purchased priced £8 / £5 students and concessions from the Students' Union Box Office in person, or via the website: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/union/subsite-event.php?contentID=18938>

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

24 October 2013

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