



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2014/3, April-June 2014

## NEXT DCA MEETING

**Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 28th. June 2014, 10am, Monyash Village Hall**

Other meeting dates are: **Open Council Meeting - Saturday, 1st. November 2014**  
**Annual General Meeting - Saturday, 28th. February 2015**

## REMINDER - DCA NEEDS A NEW CHAIRMAN

Bob Dearman has now retired as DCA Chairman after 23 years in the post - a vote of thanks for his years of excellent work was passed at the AGM in February. Terry Jackson is willing to chair meetings but does not want to take on the full responsibilities of the post of Chairman of the Association. We hope to be able to co-opt a Chairman at the next DCA meeting so please contact the DCA Secretary, Jenny Potts, with any suggested nominations.

## URGENT - HELP NEEDED FOR CLIFFHANGER 2014

### WEEKEND 21/22 JUNE

Cliffhanger is on in Sheffield again this year but they have moved the date forward from early July to June 21/22 and also moved back to the Millhouses Park venue, down the Abbeydale Road close to the centre of Sheffield. Activities will take place during Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Boyd Potts is organising on behalf of DCA and this year we will have ladder climbing and the DCA "cave" (but not the BCA cave).

We would welcome helpers who are able to come for all or part of the time, including setting up on Friday afternoon and evening and dismantling everything on Sunday evening. If you can spare a day, a morning or afternoon, or even a few hours, on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please get in touch with Boyd direct: T. 01335-370629, M. 07733 353434, Em. [boyd\\_p@btinternet.com](mailto:boyd_p@btinternet.com).

## RIP CHUCK HOOLEY

Chuck Hooley, a mainstay of DCRO as its Equipment Officer for many years, died in May after a short illness. Chuck was also a longstanding member of Oread Mountaineering Club and served as its Hut Warden for many years; he was a member of Hulland Ward Parish Council and was its Chairman for 25 years. Our condolences to his wife, Margaret, and relatives. The funeral service will be held at the parish church in Hulland Ward at 12 noon on Thursday, 19th. June.

## DCA NEWSLETTER 134

DCA now has a new Editor, **Mike Higgins**, for the Newsletter - his first production, Issue no. 134 was sent out to all members in early May. Mike would welcome articles, snippets of information, pictures, surveys, etc. from anyone who would like to contribute. In particular he would like to hear of new explorations and discoveries by local clubs. So make Mike happy by emailing your items to him or he'll also accept items posted or even phoned in to:

**Mike Higgins**, [newsletter@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@theDCA.org.uk), T. 01302 882874, M. 07971 482045  
56 Robin Hood Crescent, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, S. Yorks. DN3 2JJ

## CAN YOU HELP WITH A SURVEY

We have received a request for help from Rebecca Hodgkins: [rh338@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:rh338@exeter.ac.uk)

Hi there,

I am currently undertaking a masters in Conservation Science and Policy at the University of Exeter. At the moment, I am doing research for my dissertation, which is based on "Recreation Management in the Peak District".

I have developed a quick survey for this, and would greatly appreciate it if you could share the link around your members or associates, as I am trying to get as many people, from as many different groups as possible, to participate and have a say! I am calling upon anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or has ever undertaken any recreational activity in the Peak District!

The link is as follows: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RecreationManagement>

It should only take 5-10 minutes and would really help me out if you could take the time to fill it out, and share around!

Thank you very much,

Rebecca Hodgkins

## 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) or Ewan Cameron on [access-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:access-off@theDCA.org.uk) or tel. 07966-184308.

## Devonshire Cavern for sale

Devonshire Cavern up for sale at offers around £350,000. It comes complete with 3 acres of woodland and a four-bedroomed detached house. It is thought to be only the second time in sixty years that this property has come on the market and details are on the web at: <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-30083514.html>

The advertiser's blurb states: "*An interesting point of note is that there is a Cavern situated within the garden known as Devonshire Cavern (originally Coalpit Rake). The workings at Coalpit Rake are highly distinctive in character and Devonshire Cavern can be shown to be an ancient mine of particular importance, both for its intrinsic interest and the ease with which it can be explored and thus shown to people in order to promote interest in mining history and archeology.*"

A close eye is being kept on this by interested cavers and mining historians and it is hoped that whoever buys the property continues to be willing to allow access.

## Access to the Open Countryside in England

Up for discussion at the BCA AGM on Sunday, 15 June will be the BCA Working Group Report on the CRoW (Countryside & Rights of Way) Act and its application for access to caves. It's worth noting that way back in 1998 NCA (the forerunner of BCA) put forward a response to the original government consultation paper recommending that access to caves should be **included** in the CRoW legislation. This NCA response was based largely upon a response already made by the DCA Conservation & Access Officer at the time, Tony Gibbs.

## Waterways Swallet

Many thanks to Mel Milner, DCA Conservation Officer, and helpers who have tidied up the car park we are required to use when cavers visit Waterways Swallet near Swinscoe. Cutting down the worst of the scrubby grass encroaching on the hardcore and cutting back the bushes on the way in to the area now allows access for cars to park off the road. Please close the entrance gate behind you when you leave and also make sure you bolt down the access lid on the cave entrance after your visit.

## 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 [equipment@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:equipment@theDCA.org.uk) or T. 01298-85594, or DCA Projects Officer: Pete Knight, [projects@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:projects@theDCA.org.uk) or M. 07812 038233**

## Thanks for offers of help

Many thanks to all those who responded to Pete Knight's request for offers of help in tackling the multitude of jobs to be done. Pete would welcome a call from you if you can spare some time or if you have any special expertise in building, construction, metalworking, etc. which would be useful.

## Bolts in Giants

A query has been raised about one of the Eco-hangers holding the cable & ring fitting used for descending from the Giants Windpipe down into the Crabwalk. (These bolts suffered a lot of misuse in the past, before the installation of the cable & ring, when some cavers threaded a rope through one bolt of the pair and used it to lower people.) The bolts are being checked and, if there is any doubt at all, they will be replaced with new BP bolts.

## DCRO RESCUE CALLOUTS

DCRO have had a very busy May this year:

**1st. May - Devonshire Cavern.** Novice on a Thursday evening trip fell about 7 metres and suffered a suspected broken ankle. Her companion went out and phoned for help, a paramedic and then DCRO attended and the woman was brought to the surface just after midnight and taken to hospital.

**3rd. May - P8.** Caver with an experienced group slipped and dislocated a shoulder while in the main stream passage. The man's companions helped him on his way out while the rescue were called and DCRO then assisted him the rest of the way to the surface.

**4th. May - Rowter Hole.** Solo caver reported overdue and found to be in difficulties on a climb after another caving group had heard her shouts. DCRO stood by while she made her own way out. (The same solo caver had got into difficulties in JH the previous September and had to be rescued after a fall.)

**10th May - Gentlewoman's Shaft.** 4 cavers were marooned in Gentlewoman's after being unable to find their way through to Youd's and were unable to make their way back up the shaft they had descended. They were eventually hauled back out of Gentlewoman's by the DCRO team.

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

12 June 2014

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