



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2014/4, July-October 2014

## NEXT DCA MEETINGS

**Saturday, 1st. November 2014, 10am, Monyash Village Hall**

**Special General Meeting followed immediately by an Open Council Meeting**

**Next meeting date is: Annual General Meeting - Saturday, 28th. February 2015**

## SGM TO ELECT A NEW CHAIRMAN & APPOINT SIGNATORIES

Terry Jackson has been nominated for the post of Chairman and needs to be formally elected in order to act as a signatory on the Association's new bank account. We also need to formally approve all the new signatories.

## PAUL DEAKIN

Members will be sad to hear of the death of Paul Deakin in September. Paul was a well-known figure in Derbyshire caving for many years. It was Paul's photo of the 1st. pitch in P8 which graced the cover of one of the first properly printed DCA Newsletters back in April 1966 and his photos also figure in the latest edition of "Caves of the Peak District". Our condolences go to his family.

## 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.**

### Jug Holes Parking

Please can you remind everyone not to block access for farmers using the area and only park in the two pull-ins on the lane. Note also that there has been a problem with car tyres being slashed by some local vandals so keep a lookout.

### No access to Caves on the Dowall Hall Farm land in the Upper Dove Valley

Digging in Stoney Low Swallet has continued spasmodically throughout 2013 and into 2014 until July 2014, when access to caves other than Owl hole that lie on the Dowall Hall Farm land was withdrawn for all cavers. In the interests of access to caves in general in the Peak District it would be appreciated if cavers avoided visiting the caves in the Dowel Dale area, with the exception of Owl Hole that, due to its roadside location/access, is believed not to be affected. Derbyshire Cavers over the past decades have been very grateful to the late Bill Etch and more latterly his son Rowland Etch for allowing them access to the caves on their land. This recent turn of events is regretful in the light of the very positive relationship that has existed for over 60 years between the Etch's Family and local cavers. Please respect the decision.

### Holme Bank Chert Mine

Mr. Oldfield has decided that he wishes cavers to sign a disclaimer before entering Holme Bank Chert Mine. It would be helpful if you could have your BCA membership/Insurance card to show when you collect the key.

## 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**

### DCA has replaced the failed resin bolt in J.H. with a BP anchor

It was reported on 14th. September that on the alternative route for Leviathan, one of the last bolts for the main Y-hang for the descent (the furthest left) was loose. This resin bolt came out the rock when it was later checked by DCA installers and it was found not to be a DCA-installed Eco anchor; instead it was one of a series of spits and resin bolts installed by persons unknown some time ago. On 22nd. September DCA installers replaced this bolt with a BCA-approved BP anchor, which has now been tested with the Hydrajaws.

The other bolts and spits on this alternative route were checked and appear sound but will not be tested with the Hydrajaws for fear of damaging them as they may be inherently weaker than the BP bolts. From a risk point of view there are lots of anchors on that route with relatively short sections separated by double-bolt re-belays so it is suggested there is a relatively low risk if people are rigging properly. (DCA installed Eco-anchors on the main route some years ago; consideration is being given to whether DCA should replace all the bolts on this alternative route with BP anchors.)

### Suspect Bolts reported on a pitch in P.8

Two suspect bolts were reported at a pitch head P.8, however it was not made clear exactly which bolts were affected. All six bolts on the alternative hang for the 1st. pitch have now been tested to 6kN for 15 secs and showed no movement. The bolts on the 2nd. pitch head will be tested shortly.

## The Projects Officer needs YOUR help!

Many thanks to all those who have already 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.

## COUNTRYSIDE & RIGHTS OF WAY (CRoW) ACT AS IT AFFECTS CAVING BALLOT OF ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF BCA

At the BCA Council Meeting on 11th. October it was agreed that BCA should ask its members to give direction on how it should proceed. BCA Secretary has since confirmed that BCA will be conducting a postal ballot of all its members. He has stated:

The details are still being worked on - we were only charged with making it happen a couple of days ago - but there are a few things I can confirm.

- 1) The question will be: 'Should BCA, on your behalf, campaign for The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) to apply to going underground?' The options will be "yes" or "no".
- 2) The ballot paper will be accompanied by a summary of how BCA will proceed if the overall answer is "yes" and how it shall proceed if the answer is "no". It will also encourage members to research the issue as fully as they can and provide a link to the Act itself, but nothing else.
- 3) The dates are not yet fixed, but it is likely that deadline for returns will be mid- to late-December with the ballot papers being posted out about 3 weeks in advance of this deadline.

All **Clubs** are reminded that they will need to ensure that BCA has the correct postal address for their "Club Individual Members" of BCA, i.e. CIMs, so that they are able to receive and return their ballot paper. Direct Individual Members (DIMs) should also check that BCA has their up-to-date address. Any changes of address since registration at the beginning of this year should have been made known to the BCA Membership Secretary.

I am posting out to every member a copy of the independently produced information leaflet on CRoW which was available at Hidden Earth. Clubs should inform their members of the web address where this can be downloaded (<http://tinyurl.com/pro-CRoW-caving-01>) or, if you contact me, I can supply further copies of the leaflet. There is a zipped file of a set of further relevant documents, both for and against, which can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/pro-CRoW-caving>.

The C&A pages of the BCA website (<http://british-caving.org.uk>) have the minutes and various documents put to the meeting on 16th. August. If you go to the C&A pages you will also find a news section, which has information on the meeting the BCA Chairman had with Natural England on 8th. September. There have been a number of articles in several recent DESCENTS and subject has also been discussed at length on [ukcaving.com](http://ukcaving.com).

My DCA Representative's report on the 11th. October BCA Council Meeting will be printed and circulated to all DCA members and will be discussed at our meeting on 1st. Nov. (Note that all BCA Minutes are available on the BCA website.) Our DCA officers who attended the BCA C&A meeting in August will doubtless include comments in their reports to the DCA meeting.

DCA's minutes for our previous meeting on 28 June (on our website at <http://www.theDCA.org.uk>) records discussion on this but DCA has so far not attempted to make a decision for or against; nor has it instructed its officers on how to vote at a BCA C&A or BCA Council meeting. (It never does this, preferring to accept that DCA Officers are perfectly capable of reflecting the differing views of members). DCA Members all know that I, personally, am in favour of CRoW legislation being extended to cover caves on access land but, unless DCA formally states a view at its meeting on 1st. Nov., I cannot presume to vote one way or the other as a representative on DCA's behalf at a BCA meeting.

## CLIFFHANGER 2014, WEEKEND 21/22 JUNE

Many thanks to all the 23 DCA members and friends who helped out with Cliffhanger this year. There is an article and pictures in the current issue of the Derbyshire Caver.

## DCA NEWSLETTER, "THE DERBYSHIRE CAVER" No. 135

Issue no. 135 is being sent out to all members with this issue (unless you were able to collect your copy at Hidden Earth). Editor 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

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

16 November 2014

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