



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2015/1, January/February 2015

NEXT DCA MEETINGS

**Next meeting: Annual General Meeting - Saturday, 28th. February 2015
10am at Monyash Village Hall, followed by immediately by an open Council Meeting**

JOHN BECK

You will have heard the sad news by now, that John Beck passed away on 31st. January after a long battle against cancer. Typically, he was still caving for as long as he could, and his final report as Descent correspondent for the Peak appears in no. 242 (just out on the weekend of 7/8 February) with a plea for someone to carry on the dig he started in Lay-by Shelter in the summer when he wasn't fit enough to continue working at White Rake. John was the go-to guy for anyone in the Peak who wanted advice on a dig or a find or on some obscure point of Peak District caving history. A mine of information, he was always willing to help people and to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with anyone who asked; he was the guiding light who pointed many local cavers towards new finds.

John was responsible for two editions of "The Caves of the Peak District", the first in 1991 with Dave Gill as co-author, and more recently in 2010 with Iain Barker as co-author. Derbyshire cavers owe a great debt to John for his meticulous research and his maintenance of the Derbyshire Cave Registry, which provided the backbone of the books. His contributions also appear in the publications of BCRA and TSG, and are always well worth reading; his legacy of discoveries in Peak Cavern is memorable. John made a huge contribution to Derbyshire caving and we have all lost a good friend.

DCA NEEDS A CHAIRMAN

Terry Jackson (aka Bograt) is reluctantly in the post and would prefer a younger, more active caver in the role. He points out that he agreed to take on the position because of his loyalty to Derbyshire Caving, on the understanding that a more suitable candidate could be found, this has not yet happened. He is also willing to stand as vice-chairman to offer experience and advice to any incomer willing to take on the role. There is the alternative of course that someone may apply for vice chairman to learn the job. **SO**, all you politically opinionated Derbyshire Cavers, here's your chance, Monyash Village Hall, 10.00am, 28th February.

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 or Ewan Cameron on access-off@theDCA.org.uk or tel. 07966-184308.

Credit Crunch Shaft

The C.C.S. was a dig during the Credit Crunch Peak expedition. It looks a promising site so a decision was made to install a lid on the opening instead of just using concrete sleepers. The shaft is located in a hollow on Oxlow Farm property in the same field as Slitherstones Mine, the area is used for grazing and the shaft needed securing against livestock falling in. At the time of the dig the shaft had a collar of local stone and mortar built bringing it about 1.5 feet proud of the ground. The collar was lidded with some old wooden boards.

Gordon Wordsworth was active on the original dig and kindly volunteered to complete the cap for the DCA using a steel lid that was already in the DCA's possession similar to the one on Nettle Pot. The lid has a simple 'Derbyshire Key' spanner and nut system that has been made in a way as to prevent the nut from becoming lost. You'll require a standard adjustable spanner to access the shaft.

Gordon completed the preparation of the collar in November 2014 by profiling the top of the collar ready to accept the new lid. Pete Knight then returned a few weeks later when the concrete had set and drilled the holes for the hinges and locking pin. These will be resin glued in place as soon as the weather is warm enough for the resin to go off.

For access to the C.C.S. site, please call at Oxlow Farm and meet any arrangements for parking and access fees. Please note that the site forms part of the "Slitherstone and Linacre lead mines and a limekiln 725m south west of Rowter Farm" Scheduled Ancient Monument, List entry Number: 1019003. Permission will need to be sought from English Heritage to dig on this site.

The DCA wishes to thank Gordon Wordsworth for his time and effort in constructing the collar and getting the new lid on site. Many thanks also to the farmer, who was kind enough to transport materials to the shaft on his quad when the ground was too boggy for a 4x4, saving lots of time and effort.

For access arrangements to this site please refer to the DCA website or contact the DCA Access Officer. To volunteer to assist in any future projects please get in touch at projects@thedca.org.uk.

Titan Entrance Shaft

Access to Titan has had to be suspended because of possible instability in the lining of the entrance shaft. The fibreglass rings forming the lining had begun to distort, raising the possibility of a complete failure and the collapse of the shaft. Temporary bracing has been installed and the shaft has been closed until a solution can be found.

Eyam Dale House Cave

Access to Eyam Dale House Cave has had to be suspended temporarily because John Beck had been the key-holder on behalf of the owner. We'll try to put something in place a.s.a.p. and will let everyone know.

Traffic Regulation Order: Leys Lane

We have been advised that the Peak Park have issued an order to prohibit use by mechanically propelled vehicles at any time along the route known as Leys Lane, near Great Longstone. The section affected runs from Dale Farm (Grid ref. SK 195 722) to the point where the lane changes direction to westerly (Grid ref. SK 190 728). A map showing the extent of the restrictions may be viewed at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles>. The order comes into force on 12th. February 2015.

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 or T. 01298-85594, or DCA Projects Officer: Pete Knight, projects@theDCA.org.uk or M. 07812 038233.

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. Contact him at projects@theDCA.org.uk.

Mouldridge Mine

Pete Knight reported in December that he and Jon Daniels have rebuilt the suspect wall in Mouldridge Mine. Pete says that there was in fact a very large unsupported block at roof height that was probably only held up by wishful thinking. They extended the wall up to underneath this rock, further stabilising the area.

Eyam Shaft Tree

There was been a dead tree leaning over the entrance to the Eyam Dale Shaft entrance to Carlswark; it was completely rotten and had been there for years, tempting the unwary to use it as a convenience anchor for a descent. As of December 13th. it is no longer there, thanks to Pete Knight, who says he got bored with DIY so pulled it down and made it safe - job done, no need for further actions.

DCA NEWSLETTER, "THE DERBYSHIRE CAVER" No. 136

Issue no. 136 is in preparation and should be with you before the end of March. Editor Mike would welcome articles, snippets of information, pictures, surveys, etc. from anyone who would like to contribute to future issues. 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, T. 01302 882874, M. 07971 482045
56 Robin Hood Crescent, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, S. Yorks. DN3 2JJ

THE NEW BCA NEWS-SHEET

The latest BCA news-sheet is now online at http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=news_events:jan15

Note that this includes important information on changes to access in the North of England as well as other items.

It is hoped that it will be possible to send future editions directly to individual members by e-mail but, for now, regional councils are being asked to forward the link to their member clubs and ask that they forward it to their members.

BCA BALLOT ON CROW - THE RESULTS

Electoral Reform Services report on BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION, CONSULTATIVE BALLOT 2014

Our report of voting for the above ballot, which closed yesterday at noon, is as follows:

Question:

Should BCA, on your behalf, campaign for The Countryside and Rights of Way Act to apply to going underground?

Number of eligible voters:	6,085
Total number of votes cast:	2,270
Turnout:	37.30%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	4
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	2,266

Result:

Number voting YES	1,402 (61.9% of the valid vote)
Number voting NO	864 (38.1% of the valid vote)
	TOTAL	2,266 (100% of the valid vote)

Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the ballot:-

a) was sent the details of the ballot and

b) if they chose to participate in the ballot, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded.

All voting material will be stored for twelve months.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

<http://www.theDCA.org.uk>

10 February 2015

Hon. Secretary: Jenny Potts,
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