



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2015/2, March/May 2015

NEXT DCA MEETINGS

**Next meeting: Open Council Meeting Saturday, 20th. June 2015
10am at Monyash Village Hall.**

**Other Meetings this year: Saturday, 24 October 2014 - Open Council Meeting
Saturday, 27 February 2016 - AGM 2016 + Open Council Meeting**

DCA OFFICERS ELECTED TO SERVE FOR 2015/2016

Chairman	Terry Jackson	01663-750647	07966-219997	<i>chairman@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Secretary	Jenny Potts	01335-370629		<i>secretary@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Treasurer	Wayne Sheldon		07941-211209	<i>finance@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Conservation & Access Team				
Conservation Officer	Mel Milner			<i>conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Access Officer	Ewan Cameron		07966 184308	<i>access-off@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Legal & Insurance Officer	Peter Mellors	01623-882515		<i>legal.insurance@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Projects Officer	Pete Knight		07812 038233	<i>projects@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Training Officer	Nigel Atkins	01283-210666	07831-449919	<i>training@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman	01298-85594		<i>equipment@theDCA.org.uk</i>
N/L Editor	Mike Higgins	01302-882874	07971 482045	<i>newsletter@theDCA.org.uk</i>
Cave Registry Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>			
Vice Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>			<i>vice-chair@theDCA.org.uk</i>

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.

Axe Hole

The large boulder poised above the entrance has been brought down safely but is now blocking the entrance completely. Work is in hand to "reduce" the boulder and, at the request of the landowner, stock-proof the entrance. Thanks to Crewe C.P.C. who hope to complete the job in the next month or two.

Eyam Dale Parking

Cavers often park on the space next to the electricity sub-station in Eyam Dale near Stoney Middleton. This is not normally a **problem provided that the gates are not blocked**.

It has recently been made clear by electricity board employees that people, possibly 'cavers', often park in front of the gates, and if necessary the electricity board are prepared to drag vehicles out of the way, and to leave them on the highway. Apparently the sub-station is one of the most important in Derbyshire, and access may be urgently needed at any time. So please be aware that access seems to be a sensitive issue at the site. As an alternative, nearby parking can be found 100m uphill towards Eyam at a layby opposite Flower Pot.

Waterfall Hole Parking Area

The area around Waterfall Swallet is now owned by the National Trust but they don't own the layby site so there was some investigation first to see if the work could be undertaken by DCA. Finally, the small car parking area has been cleared of scrub, courtesy of digger loaned to DCA by Nick Williams and the hard work of a number of people; Terram geotextile matting has been laid and hardcore has now been delivered to the site. The hardcore has not yet been spread so, if you visit Waterfall, please consider taking a rake to finish the job. Thanks to all involved in a fairly epic task.

Owlet Hole Mine, Matlock Bath

PDMHS are suspending the access agreement on Owlet Hole Mine until further notice. This is due to the padlock on the shaft entrance having been broken off, it has been secured in a temporary manner but there will be no access until a long-term solution to its security is put in place. We'll try to keep you informed.

Devonshire Mine problems again

After a report of problems with the door at Devonshire Mine, a recent visit by a group found that the door was wide open. The group was able to close it once they were all inside. When they came out, they closed it with no problem. In fact turning the shaft anticlockwise with a spanner it locked first time, and seemed a bit easier than it used to be.

Please ensure when you enter and leave that the door is closed, it is imperative we do so if we are to avoid problems of future access, please make sure everyone is aware of the problem.

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.

Suspect Bolts in Suicide Cave and Giants Hole

There is a problem in the 1st. pitch area of **Suicide Cave**. This is the 3rd. P-bolt on the left wall as you approach the 1st. pitch head, the right hand one of the Y-hang. The bolt and visible resin rotate a few degrees in the hole although it could not be extracted or rotated further with a karabiner. It has been reported to the Equipment Officer and will be looked at closely with a view to replacement.

In **Giants Hole** at Garlands Pot one of the back-up anchors appears to be loose. This is the first P-bolt you encounter on the left wall of Giants as you approach Garlands Pitch, the left one of the pair of back-up anchors in the recess. This bolt rotated with its visible resin; again it has been reported to the Equipment Officer so it will be looked at closely with a view to replacement.

Rowter

A loose P-anchor has been reported in Rowter Shaft. This is the RH bolt on the re-belay. It has been checked and was due to be replaced during the week beginning 16th. March.

Consideration is being given to P-bolting the new extensions in Rowter Hole - this will be up for discussion at the DCA Council Meeting on 20th. June.

Eldon Hole Belay Stakes

Report from Pete Knight on 2nd. April on the state of the Eldon Hole ground anchors:

Once I'd kicked a bit of soil out the way to expose the base of the posts I gave them all a visual and 'kick' inspection. The following were my observations:

North route – Both anchors in good condition. Removed old rusty maillon that was occupying one hole.

South route – Single anchor looked in okay condition.

East route – Both bollards showed signs of corrosion. The base of bollard marked 'C' was particularly bad. Recommend DO NOT USE. Treat bollard 'D' as suspect too.

West route – Both bollards showed signs of corrosion. The base of bollard marked 'A' was showing large amounts of corrosion. Recommend DO NOT USE. Bollard 'B' should be thought of as suspect too.

CLIFFHANGER 2015, SHEFFIELD 10-12 JULY

Boyd Potts will be organising Cliffhanger again this year and would welcome offers of assistance for the event at Millhouses Park, Sheffield. Setting up will be Friday afternoon and evening, the event is open to the public all day Saturday and Sunday and dismantling the equipment will be done on Sunday evening. If you are able to help out with either the Ladder Climbing or the DCA Artificial Cave on either day, both days, a morning or an afternoon or if you are able to help with setting up on Friday or clearing up on Sunday evening, Boyd would love to hear from you! Contact him direct on Em. boyd_p@btinternet.com or T. 01335-370629

POSSIBLE CONGESTION DUE TO SCOUT CAVING ACTIVITIES, JULY 26TH. TO 31ST.

There is a large international Scout camp at Chatsworth towards the end of July 2015 and one of the activities that will be offered is caving. The numbers are being limited to avoid issues of cave conservation and overcrowding. Each group will be led by two experienced cave leaders. The party size being planned on is not more than 10 in an individual group with a maximum of two groups in the morning and two groups on the afternoon. They plan to use **Carlswark** (Gin to Noughts & Crosses) on Sunday 26th (pm only)-Monday 27th (am and pm) and Wednesday-Friday 29th-31st (am and pm). On the Tuesday, similar size groups will be in **Bagshawe**, and **Giants**. This is virtually identical to the arrangements which were in place for the Peak camp in 2010.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

10 May 2015

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