



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2016/3, April/May 2016

## DCA MEETINGS

**Next meeting: OPEN COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 25TH. 2016**

**Council Meetings start at 10am at Monyash Village Hall.**

**Other Open Council Meetings: 22nd. Oct. 2016 and after the AGM on 25 Feb. 2017**

**A.G.M. 2017: Saturday, 27th. February, 10am. Monyash Village Hall**

## CONSERVATION & ACCESS

If you have any queries or problems about Conservation or Access in the region, please contact Christine Wilson on [conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk), T. 01433 621149, M. 07713 416455 or Gary Noble on [access-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:access-off@theDCA.org.uk), T. 07791 625370.

### **Access to Holme Bank Mine is still in doubt**

No further news re. the problems at Holme Bank Chert Mine. We'll keep you informed as soon as we have any news.

### **Proposal to Close Derby Lane to all motorized vehicles.**

The Peak National Park Authority have begun a consultation on the future of Derby Lane, Monyash - the lane which leads close to Water Icicle. The full detail is here: <http://consult.peakdistrict.gov.uk/files/1604-Derby-Lane-Notice-of-Proposal.pdf>

Consultations here: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/about-us/have-your-say/consultations>

Comments regarding the proposal are to be submitted by the 10th of June. There has been a move to try to open the lane up to all traffic through to Long Rake road, near to Arbor Low. However, the Peak Park are suggesting that the lane be closed to all vehicular traffic beyond Summerhill Farm. The matter is being taken up by the DCA Access Officer and by members of Orpheus Caving Club, who have an ongoing dig at Water Icicle as well as maintaining access for visitors to the scientifically important extensions in the cave.

### **Access to Caves in the Upper Dove area**

Note that the Etches family at Dowall Hall Farm have requested that cavers stay away from caves on their land for the moment; this includes Etches Cave, Dowell Cave, Dowell Dale Side Pot, etc., as shown on p. 169 of CoPD. This does NOT apply to Owl Hole: no need to ask at the farm to visit Owl Hole but park sensibly on the grass verge a little way down from the Hole. Be careful not to block the tractor turning circle immediately before the gate at the top of the dale and, on no account, park on the grass alongside the unfenced road further on (land belonging to Greensides Farm). If you visit caves on land belonging to Stoop Farm, e.g. Bottle Pot, please call at the Farm first to ask permission.

## 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.

### **A New Site is Needed URGENTLY for the DCA Materials Container**

The locked 20ft. x 8ft. shipping container in which DCA keeps materials for projects: grids, conservation tape & pegs, cement mixer, the DCA artificial "cave", etc. is having to be moved from its current site at Cavendish Mill. As a matter of urgency we have to find a new home for the container and its contents - if you think you may be able to help, even with a temporary home for it, please contact Pete Knight direct.

### **Problems at JH and Block Hall**

We had a report in early April about problems encountered on a JH to White River trip. The netting holding back the debris above the top of the last pitch of Leviathan in JH (the alternative route) has deteriorated badly and become detached on one side. Several large blocks ready to fall directly onto the pitch were removed at the time but the whole thing needs to be repaired and stabilized. It's on the Projects Officer's "to do" list but won't be done soon, so take care.

Also reported that the rope at the top of Block Hall that goes to the crawl was badly damaged. The damage was isolated but the rope is now tight and hard to get on/off. This is a fixed rope, not installed by DCA, and the matter was reported to the Peak Keyholders for action.

## EuroSpeleo16

The website for this major European caving event in Yorkshire in 2016 is <http://www.eurospeleo.eu/en>

From the home page, scroll down and click on the Newsletter logo and on the EuroSpeleo2016 logo for the latest news on the EuroSpeleo2016 event happening from 13th to 20th. August in Yorkshire.

## THE BCA AGM ON MENDIP, 5TH. JUNE 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the British Caving Association will once again take place as part of a weekend of activities. This year's event will be held in conjunction with the CSCC Dig Fest in Priddy where the diggers of Mendip will be opening their digs for you to visit and have a go. In addition to the opportunity to make the big breakthrough there will be:

- Workshops
- Talks
- Wessex Challenge (hosted by the BEC)
- BBQ
- Stomp

The AGM itself will begin at **10:30am** on **Sunday 5 June** in the back room of the **Hunters Lodge**, Priddy. The agenda is now available at: [http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:general\\_meetings:agm\\_agenda\\_2016.pdf](http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:general_meetings:agm_agenda_2016.pdf)

Also available now on the BCA website are the Minutes of the BCA Council Meeting held on 9th. April, which lasted until 5pm with lengthy discussions of the CRoW access matter. Included in the Minutes is a very detailed report by Tim Allen, on his activities in progressing the BCA campaign to persuade the powers that be to change their interpretation of the law to recognise that CRoW access rights do apply to caves. DCA members have made it clear that they back this campaign and your support would be welcome at the AGM since there is some very determined opposition coming from CSCC.

Remember, all BCA individual members, whether DIMs or CIMs, may attend and vote at the AGM - make sure you take your BCA membership/insurance card. Club and regional representatives must take with them a letter of authorisation from their organisation enable them to vote.

Note also that Boyd Potts, who has been a Club Representative for Orpheus Caving Club on BCA Council for a number of years, will be standing down at this AGM. It would be good to have another Peak District based club represented on Council and there are two vacancies; there is also a vacancy for an Individual Representative - nominations may be made at the meeting.

### 50 YEARS OF HORROR!

It is 50 years ago this month that Giants and Oxlow were first connected via the Chamber of Horrors. The two were connected via an Eldon PC dig and at the time became the deepest system in the UK.

To mark this important connection there will be a small celebration of Giants- Oxlow on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> May. All are welcome for the whole day, or just the parts you fancy!

#### **Caving**

Giants, Oxlow and Maskill will all be rigged so come and enjoy a trip. You are welcome to arrange your own trips in the system that day (and use the rigged ropes) or meet at the TSG in Castleton at 9am to join with other cavers and get underground. The usual entrance fees will apply.

#### **Talks**

Meet at Castleton Village Hall (How Lane, Castleton, Hope Valley S33 8WJ) at 3:30pm. Clive Westlake will talk about the dig and early days of the connection, John Gunn about the hydrology of the system and Rob Eavis about current projects in the system and show a video of the Chamber of Horrors connection for those who have not seen it. There will be a small entrance fee and hopefully a small raffle with all profits to DCRO.

Tea and coffee will be provided and if you are a keen baker (or even a novice one) please feel free to bring cakes/ sausage rolls etc to share!

The talks will finish by 7pm to allow cavers to disperse into Castleton for eating, drinking and socialising around the TSG or the pubs of Castleton.

#### **Overnight**

The TSG is booked for this event if you would like to stay overnight.

#### **Sunday**

Giants, Oxlow and Maskill will all be left rigged on the Sunday for use by any cavers who wish to.

Any questions please get in touch with Katie on [dentkate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dentkate@yahoo.co.uk)

### FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

13th. May 2016

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