



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2017/1, Oct. 2016/Jan. 2017

DCA MEETINGS

**NEXT MEETING: A.G.M. 2017: Saturday, 25th. February, 10am. Monyash Village Hall
Plus Open Council Meeting: after the AGM on 25 Feb. 2017**

NEW ADDRESS FOR DCA CHAIRMAN

Wayne Sheldon is now at 8 Crispin Drive, Gleadless Townend, Sheffield. M. 07941 211209, Em. chairman@theDCA.org.uk.

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, T. 01433 621149, M. 07713 416455 or Gary Noble on access-off@theDCA.org.uk, T. 07791 625370.

All DCA Access Information is now on the Web

The DCA website now has all the necessary information for access to caves/mines in the Peak District, including location maps, preferred access routes to certain sites and rigging topos where appropriate. If you find any errors or need for amendments/updates, please contact the DCA Secretary on secretary@theDCA.org.uk, and we'll arrange for the website to be updated so that the information is always current. (The old DCA Handbook, published in 2012 is now superseded and should no longer be relied on for up-to-date information.)

Holme Bank Chert Mine

All back entrances, including the oil drum emergency exit have now been capped off and landscaped, with the approval of Chatsworth Estate, so avoiding the continual problems of local children getting into the mine. The bulk of this work was done by Pete Mellors, assisted by Pete Knight, Andy McHugh, Roy Rogers, Duncan Scurfield and Kevin West. A new route to the entrance now in use (No. 2 Entrance), has been agreed now that access by the former entrance (No. 1 entrance), has been withdrawn by the owner of Holme Hall. Access is, as before, by permission of Mr. Oldfield and map giving full details of the new route, parking arrangements, etc. is now on the DCA website.

Eyam Dale House Cave

The new route to Eyam Dale House Cave has been sorted - thanks to Pete Knight and his helpers - and access is now possible again. Please check the details on the website for the exact route and procedure. Just at present there is no lock on the cave gate following problems with the combination lock originally installed, so the cave may now have a new combination lock (check the website for the code) or it may be accessible using the "Derbyshire Key" spanner system.

Parking in Matlock Bath

The situation re. parking in Matlock Bath for cavers visiting Devonshire Cavern or Wapping Mine is now clarified - thanks to Nigel Atkins for the information. The space at the side of New Bath Road (opposite the New Bath Hotel swimming pool), is owned by the New Bath Hotel but the manager has no objection to cavers parking there during the day. (The cones were placed in October last year to stop people parking for the evening for the Matlock Illuminations.) Just make sure that you don't block anyone off when you park and everything should be fine.

Proposal to Close Derby Lane to all motorized vehicles

The PDNPA will go ahead with the proposed Traffic Restriction Order at Derby Lane but caver traffic will be exempt. Exactly how this exemption will work in practice has still to be sorted out in discussions between the Authority and DCA. It is hoped we can avoid the bureaucratic nightmare of individual applications in advance in writing!

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.

Rope in Giants

It has been reported that there is a rope attached to the first bolt at the pull through which leads back into crab walk. It has been there for some time now. Sometimes it's attached to the pull through ring, sometimes it's attached to the first bolt and other times it's just left laying on the ledge at the top. Does anyone know whose rope it is and does it need removing or is it being used by someone on a project?

In-situ Deviation ropes

Note that some deviations may have a rope on them but you are advised not to rely on this as the rope may have been removed because of damage. Such ropes are not checked or tested by DCA so, if you know you are going to have to use a deviation, it may be worth taking some spare rope for the purpose, "just in case".

Rowter Rigged

Mark Richardson reports:

Over the course of three very long and fairly punishing trips, Rowter Hole extensions have now been fully resin bolted. In total, 68 anchors were placed and all pre-existing rigging removed. The cave is now 'ready for use'. We will publish a rigging topo in due course but need to arrange a trip for accurate rope length measurements. (If anyone is keen to help out with this/do it then please let me know).

In the meantime, **my best guess** for a trip to the end will require ropes of:

Main shaft - 70m

Gin shaft - 15m

Badger rift - 10m

Two Left Wellies - 50m

Milky Relief - 35m

Bottom of Orechasm - 50m

- All hand lines in the Icecream trail are left in situ.
- All up pitches into the top of the Orechasm and Hourglass Aven, up the slopes to Breathless and Sunrise are newly rigged on fresh ropes (160+m of rope!).
- All deviations are left in situ.
- The catch nets in Hourglass Aven have also been emptied but there is still loose rock around so be careful.
- To get to the bottom of the Orechasm you will need around 30-35 connectors.

As Mark says above, this is a guess, so please be cautious.

DERBYSHIRE CAVER NO. 143

The latest issue of the Derbyshire Caver is now published - many thanks to Editor Mike Higgins - and will be with you next week. Mike would love to hear from you with your news, views, photographs, etc. You can email him on newsletter@theDCA.org.uk or mike.higgins2@btinternet.com

Or you can send him your contributions by snail-mail: 56 Robin Hood Crescent, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 2JJ

CAVE ARCHAEOLOGY

A new collaboration between the National Trust and the University of Nottingham Archaeology Department is examining the archaeology of Dovedale from the Ice Age onwards. Sparked by the discovery of a coin hoard in Reynard's Kitchen Cave in 2013, we have been investigating what is known from the caves in the area before forming a plan for further study. We'll be updating DCA with info as and when we have news, but in the meantime if you'd like to contact the project, please email Dr Hannah O'Regan: Hannah.oregan@nottingham.ac.uk @palaeohan

DAVE NIXON ON AUDIO ARCHIVE

With grateful thanks to Tommy Moore, there are now three newly published interviews with Dave Nixon on the Audio Archive part of the British Caving Library website.

Dave 'Moose' Nixon has been at the centre of many of the significant finds in the Peak Cavern system since the mid-1980's, with his explorations including the White River Series, the extensions to James Hall Over Engine Mine, and Titan. We have him and his colleagues to thank for facilitating some of the finest caving trips in the country.

1. Getting Started
2. Explorations in the Peak Cavern System
3. Titan: The Surface Connection

To find the recordings, go to www.caving-library.org.uk and then click on **Audio Archive**.

CAVING PUBLICATIONS LOOKING FOR GOOD HOME

Tony Gibbs is "downsizing" and has collections of caving periodicals to give away free to a good home. He has runs of Descent, DCA Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver", Caves & Caving and Speleology. If you are interested, please contact Tony direct on algibbs@blueyonder.co.uk.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

14th. January 2017

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