



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Information Circular 2017/2, Jan.- March 2017

DCA MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: Open Council Meeting, Saturday, 24th. June, 10am. Monyash Village Hall
Meetings for 2017/18: Open Council Meeting, Sat. 27 October, 10am. Monyash Village Hall
AGM 2018, Sat. 24 February, 10am. Monyash Village Hall, followed by Open Council Meeting

DR. TREVOR FORD, OBE

We are sad to have to report the death of DCA Honorary Member Dr. Trevor Ford on 22nd. February, just short of his 92nd. birthday. In addition to being a cave scientist of considerable standing, Trevor was a supporter of DCA from its beginning in 1960. He produced the very first edition of "Caves of Derbyshire" in 1964 on behalf of DCA, continuing through to the 5th. edition in 1984; he also ensured that DCA was paid royalties by Dalesman Publishing for this, amounting to several thousands of £'s over the years. In 1997 Trevor was awarded an OBE for his services to geology and to cave science. For a list of his cave-, karst- and mine-related publications (which will need updating as he continued his written output!) see Cave & Karst Science 42(1), 2015, pages 3-5.

DCA OFFICERS FOR 2017-18

Sadly, Terry Jackson has had to stand down as Vice-Chairman due to ill health - we wish him a speedy recovery. Phil Wolstenholme has accepted the post of Cave Registry Secretary and would like to hear from you about your new discoveries. This year's Officers and their email addresses are:

Chairman	Wayne Sheldon	chairman@theDCA.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Alan Brentnall	vice-chair@theDCA.org.uk
Secretary	Jenny Potts	secretary@theDCA.org.uk
Treasurer	Angus Sawyer	finance@theDCA.org.uk
<u>Conservation & Access Team</u>		
Conservation Officer	Christine Wilson	conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk
Access Officer	Gary Noble	access-off@theDCA.org.uk
Legal & Insurance Officer	Peter Mellors	legal.insurance@theDCA.org.uk
Projects Officer	Pete Knight	projects@theDCA.org.uk
Training Officer	Nigel Atkins	training@theDCA.org.uk
Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman	equipment@theDCA.org.uk
N/L Editor/Publications Off.	Mike Higgins	newsletter@theDCA.org.uk
Cave Registry Secretary	Phil Wolstenholme	cave-registry@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.

Herne Hill Caves problem

There is a problem at Herne Hill Caves (situated in a supermarket car park in Maltby), due to the antisocial activities of some young people, which even threatened to involve the police. DCA had a report that the gate on No. 1 Cave was damaged and no longer secure, leading to conservation and safety issues. Ulley Activity Centre and Wickersley School (some of whose staff live close to the sites), wish to continue to take their pupils into the caves as part of their outdoor activities scheme and they have offered help to ensure that access is maintained. The gate will be refurbished and the fixings strengthened but it appears the door will need to be secured with a substantial padlock so, as soon as a system is set up to enable cavers to obtain a key, we will put details of the new access arrangements on the DCA website.

Mouldridge Mine Door

The wooden frame supporting the door at Mouldridge rotted through and collapsed on 2nd. February. Arrangements are in hand to re-fit and strengthen the door but, until this is completed, please treat the door and its frame with care.

All DCA Access Information is now on the Web

The DCA website now has all the details for access to caves/mines in the Peak District, including location maps, preferred access routes and rigging topos where appropriate. We hope to be able to add links to surveys soon. (To find the information, click in the "Cave" logo on the left of the home page.) 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.)

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.

Rowter Rigged

Rowter Hole extensions have now been fully resin bolted, requiring the placement of 68 anchors, and all pre-existing rigging has been removed. The cave is now 'ready for use' and DCA Information Circular 2017/1 gave approximate pitch lengths. As promised, a rigging topo will appear on the DCA website in due course.

Devonshire Cavern

"Loose" Anchors:

Following reports of "loose" P-anchors, all the anchors in Devonshire have been tested with a Hydrajaws. Bob Dearman has commented:

Two anchors were reported loose on the Hell's Well pitch in Devonshire Cavern. These anchors had been reported loose on three previous occasions over the last four years following which they were proven to be perfectly sound. The problem seems to be that people think that if there is slight resin cracking round the entrance to the drill hole this means that the anchor is loose. The reason for this cracking is down to Hydrajaws testing when slight flexing of the anchor under load sometimes separates the excess resin from the substrate. This has no effect whatsoever on the strength of the anchor although it may look a little disconcerting. Anyhow, after testing these anchors to EN 959 they again were proven to be sound.

A good idea, if people can be bothered, is to carry a short tommy bar and exert a gentle moment on suspect anchors to see if there is any rotational movement. If excessive rotational movement i.e. +/- 2mm is observed it should be reported to DCA.

Also at Devonshire Cavern five more anchors were installed to provide an update to training facilities.

Shafts:

The new owner of the land which includes Devonshire Cavern has asked for DCA's help in locating and making safe a number of shafts on his land, some of which lead into Devonshire. Once this has been done cavers will have access to the Mine via at least two of the shafts as well as through the normal bolted door at the side of the footpath. There is a considerable amount of work to be done and Nigel Atkins, who is co-ordinating this, would welcome offers of help to nigel@pennineorganisation.com, T. 01282 210666, M. 07831 449919.

Masson Mine

Following agreement with PICA and the Mines Inspector that Masson Mine is suitable for use by instructed parties, DCA will be installing some P-bolts to enable leaders/instructors to place a hand-line if needed and to protect a traverse close to a drop.

DERBYSHIRE CAVER NO. 144

The next issue of the Derbyshire Caver, No. 144, is now in preparation - many thanks to Editor Mike Higgins. 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

MORE CAVING PUBLICATIONS LOOKING FOR GOOD HOME

The British Caving Library, situated at Glutton Bridge, just south of Buxton, has a number of duplicate publications (both books and journals), which are surplus to requirements. These include a number of items which may be of particular interest to Derbyshire Cavers. If you are interested and would like to check what is available, email the Librarian at bcra-librarian@bcra.org.uk or contact Jenny Potts on T. 01335 370629 or potts599@btinternet.com

BCA PARTY WEEKEND & AGM, 10/11 JUNE IN DERBYSHIRE

This year's BCA Party weekend and AGM will be on the weekend 10/11 June and will be held at The Rotary Centre, Robinslands Lane, Hope Valley, Castleton S33 8UB. Full details of arrangements will appear in the next BCA Newsletter but, briefly, there will be accommodation or camping on site, food and a bar, entertainment on Saturday night plus talks, caving trips, etc.

The AGM itself will start at 10.30am on Sunday and all BCA members, whether Direct Individual or Club Individual Members or club representatives are welcome to come and have your say and use your vote.

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

21st. March 2017

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