



# Derbyshire Caving Association

Information Circular 2017/4, April-August 2017

## DCA MEETINGS

**NEXT MEETING:** Open Council Meeting, Sat. 28 October, 10am. Monyash Village Hall  
**AGM 2018,** Sat. 24 February, 10am. Monyash Village Hall, followed by Open Council Meeting

## 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.

### Bottle Pot

Access here is extremely sensitive at present. If you wish to visit the cave it is essential to phone in advance for permission, 01298 23618, and be willing to provide proof of insurance. However, access may be refused so please respect this.

### Mouldridge Mine

The frame of the door has now been fixed and the sign is now back on.

### Kirkland Shaft, Devonshire Mine

The new shaft is actually in the garden of the house and we are currently in the process of organizing access for cavers. There is some work still to do on the fitments of the lid but, once this is done, we'll let everyone know how access is to be arranged. Please be patient and we'll circulate the information a.s.a.p.

### Holme Bank Chert Mine

At present the Lower Entrance remains closed. For the moment access procedure is as follows:

- \* Applications in advance to Oldfield Design, tel. 01629 813301
- \* Follow instructions on which entrances are available for use
- \* Parking permitted in Office car park at weekends and outside normal office hours in the week
- \* Liability insurance cover required plus acceptance of all risks associated with entry to the Mine.

### Mandale Mine Access

Unfortunately it has proved impossible to maintain safe access to the site using the "Derbyshire Key" system because persons unknown persistently leave the gate open after undoing the bolt. Lathkill Dale is very popular with the general public and it is essential that the mine site is kept safe to avoid danger to the public and, in particular, to children. Reluctantly DCA and Natural England have had to change the arrangements and have now installed a combi-lock, so cavers wanting access will need to obtain the code in advance. To do this, please email the DCA Access Officer on [access-off@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:access-off@theDCA.org.uk), giving your name and the date on which you wish to visit.

Please note that all cavers visiting the site are required to hold Public Liability Insurance, e.g. BCA Membership insurance, or similar.

### Nuts at Knotlow

One of the nuts holding the large outer lid on the Engine shaft at Knotlow went missing at the end of July. As it's a large nut and the exact size was unknown, it's taken until 6th. August to find a replacement. Please take care to secure the nuts if you use the lid and, if one does go missing, please let the DCA Projects Officer, Pete Knight, know:

[projects@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:projects@theDCA.org.uk).

### 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](mailto: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.)

## LOST SCURION

Accidentally left outside Carleswark on 13 July, probably near the sub-station, a red Elderid ultralight with duct tape on the inside and a black Scurion. Any news, please contact Jacob: email is [maddoghhouse96@gmail.com](mailto:maddoghhouse96@gmail.com), phone number is 07763468197.

## 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.

### Eldon Hole Ground Anchors

The defunct anchors at the top of Eldon Hole have now all been replaced by Dan Hibberts & co., following consultations with Bob Dearman and Pete Knight. The original anchors had rotted and were removed by being given a hefty kick, so constructing suitable long-lasting replacements has taken some time and thought.

The new anchors are threaded rock anchors, 25mm dia. x 1m depth, topped by a ring, and are fixed with grout. Even if there was no grout in the hole it is almost certain that the anchor would be OK because of the leverage involved.

So all the anchors at the top of Eldon Hole are once more in place and solid. Many thanks to all those involved in completing this job on behalf of DCA.

### Eldon Hole, Damocles Rift fixed rope

Fixed ropes in Eldon Hole have recently been replaced. Note that DCA does not install or maintain fixed ropes and is not responsible for the fixed rope leading up to Damocles Rift from Millers Chamber.

DCA has installed and maintains the anchors and cords for the pull-thro' system which allows access to Millers Chamber from the Main Chamber of Eldon Hole, requiring cavers to provide their own 55m rope with which to make the climb up.

## DERBYSHIRE CAVER NO. 145 & 146

The next issue of the Derbyshire Caver, No. 145, is now out - many thanks to Editor Mike Higgins. Mike would love to hear from you with your news, views, photographs, etc. ready for No. 146, due out in October. You can email him on [newsletter@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@theDCA.org.uk) or [mike.higgins2@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.higgins2@btinternet.com)

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

## FAREWELL TO HITCH 'N' HIKE

Hitch 'n' Hike will be closing its doors for the final time late this August, after 33 years. If you're in the area between now and then they will still be open and Shaun, Angela, John and Jane would like to see you before they go. They still have some stock, all on clearance, so if you need anything there's still time. Though if you're travelling any distance it would be wise to phone first to check what they've got!

## WANTED CLERICAL ASSISTANT FOR BCA

The British Caving Association is looking for a PART-TIME CLERICAL ASSISTANT to help the BCA Executive support all aspects of the country's caving community.

This post will appeal to an outgoing individual with experience of general clerical duties including minute taking, collation of officer reports, meeting arrangements and record keeping, as well as updating BCA's website

Working hours are flexible, expected to average 4-5 hours per week. Occasional weekend work near Birmingham would be required (approx. 4 Saturdays a year; travel costs and journey time will be paid). Good internet access from home is essential. Own transport would be an advantage but not essential.

The job will appeal to applicants wanting a predominantly home-based online job, with occasional travel required to Great Hucklow in Derbyshire and elsewhere in the Midlands.

The applicant must be computer literate, self-motivated and good at working independently. Experience of work or volunteering in the caving or other outdoor pursuits sectors would be advantageous.

The post carries an attractive remuneration package, dependent on experience.

Applications in the form of CV and accompanying letter outlining suitability for the post should be sent to:

*The BCA Secretary, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RG,*

or alternatively email [secretary@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:secretary@british-caving.org.uk)

## DAVID ROSE TAKES OVER AS EDITOR OF BCA NEWSLETTER

David Rose has volunteered to take over as Editor of the BCA Newsletter, issued free to all BCA Members - by email if BCA has your details. Thanks to Robin Weare who has retired after doing the job for several years. You can send news for inclusion to [newsletter@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@british-caving.org.uk)

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

7th August 2017

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