



# Derbyshire Caving Association

Information Circular 2018/1, Oct. 2017 - Jan. 2018

## DCA MEETINGS

**AGM 2018, Sat. 24 February, 10am. Monyash Village Hall,**

**To be followed by a brief Open Council Meeting**

## NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR JENNY POTTS

Jenny has been proposed for Honorary Membership of DCA by Pete Mellors and, as is required by the Constitution, this has been supported in writing by more than 10% of the Member Clubs together with more than 10% of the Individual Members, so the proposal will be put to the AGM.

As per the Constitution, 3.7.e, *“The proposal [to offer Honorary Membership] shall be withdrawn before being put if not less than 25% of the Member Clubs together with not less than 25% of Individual Members notify the Secretary in writing in advance of the meeting of their objection.”*

## DERBYSHIRE CAVER NO. 147

The next issue of the Derbyshire Caver, No. 147, is now being printed and will be sent out with this Circular - many thanks to Editor Mike Higgins. Mike would love to hear from you with your news, views, photographs, etc. ready for No. 148, due out in January. 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.

## THE FUTURE OF THE DERBYSHIRE CAVER IS ONLINE !

As you will have seen from the minutes of the October Council Meeting, DCA has reluctantly decided that it can no longer afford to send a printed copy of the Newsletter to all its members as one of the benefits of membership - the cost of posting the Newsletter has risen to such an extent that, combined with the cost of printing, it cost DCA a total of over £1,100 in 2017. This cost is not subsidised by BCA and is now an inordinately large proportion of DCA's expenditure, which Council feels would be better directed to access and conservation. “The Derbyshire Caver”, under its current Editor is an excellent publication and we wish it to continue at its present high standard of production - the only way we can do this is to make it an on-line publication for all members, with the option of subscribing £10 for 4 issues if you wish to receive a printed copy as well as the online version.

**So, from No, 148 onwards, “The Derbyshire Caver” will be published online on the DCA website and all members will be notified when it is uploaded and can read it on line, (or may download and print it themselves). It will be in full colour as we shall no longer have to worry about the additional cost of colour printing on the inside pages.** (Note that printed copies will still have to be black and white on the inside pages to keep the cost down, though front and back covers will continue to be in colour.)

**Individual Members** who want to receive a printed copy will need to subscribe at a cost of £10.00 for 4 issues posted to you. This will be **in addition** to your DCA subscription of £10 (or £7 if you are a BCA DIM) so you will need to notify the Treasurer and either send your subscription plus membership as one lump sum of £20 (or £17 if you are a BCA DIM) or, if you pay by standing order and you don't want to change this, send a separate subscription payment to DCA. You must tell us that you want the publication posted and ensure you give us the correct address to do this.

**Club Members** who have a Club Library may, if they wish, continue to receive a printed copy posted direct to their Librarian free of charge. You will need to tell the DCA Secretary that you want a printed copy for your Club Library and ensure that DCA has the Librarian's address to post it to.

**Associate Members** who are Centres where “The Derbyshire Caver” is put out in a common room for Instructors or Centre visitors to read will still be able to have a printed copy, free of charge. But you must remember to ask the Secretary and ensure that we have the correct postal address.

Note that printed copies will still be available to buy from Shops - currently they are on sale at Peak Mining Museum in Matlock Bath and at the Old Smithy Café in Monyash but we are looking for more sales outlets.

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018

Please don't forget to pay your Individual Member subscription for 2018 to the Treasurer:

Cheques, payable to DCA, go to **Angus Sawyer, 143 Willsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 3LJ**

If you prefer to pay by Direct Bank Transfer to our account at Lloyds Bank,

**Account name: Derbyshire Caving Association,**

**Sort Code: 30-84-44, Account No: 16542868**

If you do this, please notify the Treasurer [finance@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:finance@theDCA.org.uk) to say you have done so.

## 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 Caves & Mines in the Peak District

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.)

## 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.

### Rigging Topo for Rowter

The rigging topo for Rowter Hole, including all the new extensions, is now ready and is being posted on the DCA website. Thanks to all those involved in the marathon effort of placing all the bolts and then drawing up the topo.

### Re-bolting JH

Leviathan Pitch in JH is currently being re-bolted to give a better route - thanks to Henry Rockcliff.

### Eldon Hole, Damocles Rift rigging

A post from Mark Wright on [UKcaving.com](http://UKcaving.com) on 5th. January:

*After a long break Mark Richardson and me were down Eldon Hole tonight.*

*No digging but we did finally get Damocles re-rigged. We installed a couple of protected webbing slings and a couple of months ago we installed 5 x Petzl Collinox anchors and new connectors on all of the up pitches and tonight we carried out the 15 second, 6kN axial pull tests (they all passed) and installed a 60m single newish 11mm rope all the way from the very top to the anchor at the top of the pull-through pitch from the main chamber.*

*3 x Petzl Collinox anchors were also installed and tested at the base of the pull-through pitch as the previous anchors were now underneath our digging spoil.*

*Another Petzl Collinox was installed and tested on the very last re-belay on the West entrance route, instead of the wobbly hanger that we have been using since we started the project.*

*We opted for Collinox anchors and the glass resin tubes as an alternative to the BCA anchors which would ruin the placements if they ever had to be removed. Technically, as DCA/BCA don't cover fixed ropes, these anchors fall outside of the BCA anchor scheme.*

*All the old rope was removed from the cave.*

*You will still need to take a rope for the pull-through pitch out of the main chamber.*

Note that DCA does not install or maintain fixed ropes, so any found attached to DCA-installed P-anchors or BP-anchors, are not the responsibility of DCA.

## DCA NEEDS A NEW SECRETARY

A reminder that Jenny Potts will be standing down as DCA Secretary at this coming AGM so DCA will need a new Secretary. We would like to make sure that it's a smooth takeover so Jenny is happy to liaise with whoever is willing to take on the post. If you are interested, please contact the DCA Chairman:

**Wayne Sheldon, 8 Crispin Drive, Gleadless Townend, Sheffield, S12 2NE. Phone 07941 211209 or email [chairman@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:chairman@theDCA.org.uk)**

## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER / NOTICEBOARD

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

15 January 2018

<p><i>Hon. Secretary: Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, DE6 3FE Tel. 01335-370629 Email. <a href="mailto:secretary@theDCA.org.uk">secretary@theDCA.org.uk</a></i></p>
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