

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015
28th. February 2015



Annual Report For 2014
Including
DCA Annual Accounts for the
Financial Year Ending 31 Dec. 2014

DCA Chairman's Report AGM 2015

I consider it has been a busy and productive year for the officers of DCA and their teams of helpers with a lot of good work done in the Conservation and Access and Equipment departments, I am sure the respective officers will detail their achievements in their individual reports. There is a never ending list of jobs in these fields but I am confident that the team leaders have it all in hand and are steadily working through it, they are all able and competent people and I thank them sincerely for their commitment to the roles they have volunteered to fulfil.

On the administration side the Officers, both established and more recent, have been beavering away in their extremely competent way to ensure the smooth running of the Association and I am not aware of any crises in this area of activity. I am continually impressed by the ability and commitment of these people and, once again, my sincere thanks.

The one weak spot in the administration team is the role of Chairman. Because of health issues I cannot be as physically active as I would like to be, I consider this to be an unsustainable situation for DCA and would much prefer a younger, more actively involved person to take on the role. I took on the position reluctantly to facilitate the smooth operation of the organisation, and consider myself a caretaker Chairman until someone more suitable steps up to the plate, I am willing to stay in the Vice-Chairmans role to assist any new incumbent into their position if that is required.

Over the last year we have lost a few well known and key people from the Derbyshire caving scene, the latest being John Beck, although very rarely seen at the DCA, John was a very valuable "back room boy", busily and efficiently maintaining the Derbyshire Cave Registry and collaborating, first with Dave Gill, then Iain Barker, to compile all later editions of Caves of the Peak District on behalf of DCA. His absence will be sorely felt and his replacement very difficult to find.

Once again, my eternal gratitude to all Officers and team volunteers for keeping the 'train on the tracks', and minimising the stress on this decrepit Chairman!

*Terry Jackson, Caretaker Chairman,
February 2015*

Honorary Secretary's Report

Communications

During the year since the AGM on 1st. March 2014 I have sent out the following to all members, by email where possible:

- DCA Annual Report for 2013 and Accounts for 2013 (Printed copy for everyone)
- Minutes of the 2014 DCA AGM and Minutes of the 3 following Council Meetings
- Notice of DCA Caver Training Events for 2014 and the first part of 2015
- Notification of the BCA/BCRA Party Weekend in Yorkshire and the BCA AGM
- 5 DCA Information Circulars 2014/2, 2014/3, 2014/4, 2014/5 and 2015/1
- DCA Newsletters: "The Derbyshire Caver", nos. 134 and 135. Thanks to our new Editor, Mike Higgins.
- Notification of the publication of the Stoney Middleton Dale SSSI Cave Audit and Conservation Management Plan
- Information about CRoW and the forthcoming BCA Members poll on CRoW
- Half a dozen other circular emails advising of access problems, coming events, etc.

All information circulated has also been posted on the DCA website - thanks to Mel Milner.

My thanks go to all the members who provide information for me to forward on in whatever way is quickest.

I have also this year used **UKcaving.com** to bring to the attention of the more general caving public items re. access, safety and conservation. In particular, with the help of information sent on to me by other UKcaving users, I have been able to issue a clarification of the issue of the Peak Dale Railway Tunnel, the inappropriate access to this protected site and the damage done by this. I have concentrated on providing factual information on behalf of DCA and have signed off as DCA Honorary Secretary, where I have done this. Other DCA officers have also used this facility and have been careful to ensure that we always provide factual information when signing off as a DCA officer.

UKcaving.com has now been bought by a caver, who has made a tentative proposal to develop an area of 'announcements' where DCA could place its news and information with a link back to its own site for full information. This could be a locked area, ie., it would not be possible for people to reply directly on our information post. However, there would be an area for discussion where it is hoped the DCA would engage with any reasonable and civil requests for information. This facility has been offered all regional councils and to BCA and, after discussion with other DCA officers, we feel it would be useful to take up this offer.

Sales of Caves of the Peak District and other publications

Sales of Caves of the Peak District have continued throughout the year, more slowly now but we still sold over 80 copies, mainly to trading outlets. We also continue to sell copies of the various cave conservation audits, mainly at Hidden Earth, where I always put on a DCA sales and information stand. The Treasurer is kept informed of progress.

Peak District Access & Rigging Guide

This has been issued free to all DCA members since its production in 2012 and is also on the DCA website for downloading, so it's not surprising that we sell very few copies direct to cavers. As an A5 booklet it was very cheap and easy to produce and I am now selling it as a discounted price of £2.50. There have been a number of amendments, all notified separately to DCA members and on the website, and I would like to suggest that we produce a printed "2015 Updates" leaflet, combining all these and in the same format as before, which we can post to members, include with all copies sold in future and also place on the website. (I suggest this would run to no more than 8 sides of A5.)

Thanks

Thanks go to Chris Broome, who has decided to stand down after a number of years as Assistant Secretary with special responsibility for planning liaison. In former years, before the advent of local authority planning websites made information more easy to come by, Chris's regular scans of information coming out from "officialdom" proved very useful and we had reason to be very grateful for his scrutiny.

My thanks go to all the DCA officers and their helpers who put in so much effort to keep this Association going and who support me in keeping you informed.

I am willing to stand for another year as your Secretary if required.

*Jenny Potts, Hon. Secretary
26-2-15*

DCA Treasurers Report for 28th Feb 2015 AGM:

Caves of the Peak District:

Total expenditure on caves of the Peak District for 2014 which mainly includes distribution is £39.45; total income during 2014 was £1161.00 which is only slightly lower than last year so you can say that sales have more or less stayed the same, which is a good sign. We still have a stock of 838 copies as off 31st Dec 2014.

Other Publications:

Publication sales for 2014 are better this year, there seems to be an increase on conservation audit sales, the new Stoney Middleton audit is out and sales are going well. Derbyshire Caver is being published again, thanks to our new editor who is doing a splendid job and this is showing in the accounts.

The costs to print and post the publications have increased but that is only to be expected.

BCA Core Funding:

Looking at the accounts for 2014, we have received £1,053.50 from BCA this year. We have claimed for Cliffhanger costs but nothing has been paid as of yet but the BCA Treasurer is aware of our claim. There have been some training grants received from BCA as well for local training events.

Grants for SSSI Conservation Work:

Natural England (NE) has provided us grant money of £3000 that runs from April 2014 to March 2015. This has / is being spent on a number of projects / claims.

- Wharf Climbing Shaft Restoration Work
- Conservation Tape and Pegs
- Cave Monitoring Forms Production
- Manifold Valley Entrance Work
- White River Series Re-taping Work
- Loncliffe Mine Re-capping

At the time of writing, we have received £731.84 for the first two claims. Claims have been submitted to NE for £857.39 for the two of the projects, these are waiting approval. I am currently putting together the last two claims and this is taking up quite a bit of my time. The last project won't be completed this year but we are putting in a part claim, as agreed with NE.

Pete Knight and Bob Dearman worked on a shaft in Lathkill Dale and this has been funded by NE as well, this was paid last month.

The funding we receive from Natural England is saving us money from our conservation and access pot, as conservation work is being paid for NE. This should continue into this financial year as NE have submitted a bid for further grant funding for 2015 / 16 so hopefully we will have further funding later this year. I could do with some help with the claims going forward, especially if the amount of grant we receive is more than last year.

Banking:

I am currently in the process of applying for an account with the Unity Trust Bank; eventually this will replace our accounts with RBS that will be phased out.

I am willing to stand for 2015 unless somebody else really wants the job. I would like to make this my last year as DCA Treasurer, as my current day to day job is really hectic. This doesn't mean I will abandon DCA, as I would like to stay involved in one way or another.

*Wayne Sheldon, DCA Hon. Treasurer
11/02/15*

Conservation Officer's Report

The last few months have for a change been quite quiet!

Entrance works on the various sites in the Manifold & Hamps has continued depending on river levels. 5 sites need finishing off still.

It has however become apparent that a good number of the galvanised bolts securing some of the entrance grilles which are underwater for several months of each year are corroding quite badly due to the acidic nature of the water. (Which of course, formed the caves.) Mike Higgins is sorting out some stainless replacements for me for which I am very grateful.

Consideration might be given to replacing some with Titanium bolts which are being used on climbing routes these days as they are said to last up to 50 years. A test site might be a good idea.

(See titanclimbing.com.)

I continued the NT cave monitoring program for the valleys. Checked all the caves including taking photos of all the entrances and creating monitoring forms for them all. I have also located several unrecorded caves in Dovedale, at least 2 of which may have archaeological potential because they appear to have been used for human habitation in the past.

I have purchased some Fluorescein for some water tracing experiments, mostly short distance ones. I did apply for a BCRA research grant to help with costs for this, but due to having been fuffed about by BCRA my membership has since expired and I am no longer eligible for one.

I liaised with various organisations (NE, EA, PDMHS) about the proposals for the 'Restoration of Perennial Flow in the River Lathkill upstream of Bubble Springs', if there ever was such a thing. Joined the 'Friends of the Lathkill'; Facebook group giving regular contact with Oliver Haddon and Alec, the riverkeeper. Two of the weirs have now been bypassed improving the river habitat and hopefully helping Lathkill Resurgence Cave to have accessible airspace more often.

I am keeping an eye on proceedings. A Trust has apparently been created and they are putting together an application for Lottery funding. An EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) will still have to be carried out first. I am gently encouraging them to consider the biodiversity of the underground watercourses. (The underground watercourses of the Manifold are teeming with wildlife.) This funding / EIA process could go on for years, of course.

I encourage DCA to decide on an official policy on the proposals, I can supply my opinions to the meeting if required.

Stainless Belay Bolts needed for the Manifold

Darfar Pot – 7 bolts (There are 9 pitches.)

1st, 2nd & 3rd pitches. Surprise Pot, Barn Pot, Canyon I & II, Chamber Pot.

The others have natural belays. (Some of the existing bolts are corroding badly it seems due to being underwater for several months of each year.)

Riverside Top Entrance – (3 bolts. 1 top belay & 2 for the y-hang for the 16m pitch.)

Ladyside Pot – 1 bolt. (For a new handline belay just under the entrance grille. The old one is hard to find & 40 years old!)

Ladyside 2 / Concrete Pot – 2 bolts for a y-hang. (This will this year become a 17m pitch straight into the main river passage.)

(NB:- They are all currently underwater or inaccessible without use of rope techniques / ladders.)

**Mel Milner, DCA Conservation Officer
February 2015.**

Water Icicle Close Cavern

Interest in the gated extensions beyond Northwest Passage in Water Icicle Close Cavern has continued sporadically. Nine groups were accompanied around the extensions in 2014 and scientists made two trips late in the year to collect more samples. There are four groups already booked for 2015, with a further three planning to book.

There were some issues with the padlock earlier in the year, but these have now been resolved.

Digging continues at the very bottom of the Elevator, where the dig is now in the region of 8m deep and still looking promising.

There have been no reports of bad air in the cave as a whole in the last twelve months.

Karen Slatcher

Access Officer's Report

I am deeply sorry I cannot make it to this meeting; however I am currently working overseas until April.

Waterfall Hole

No more communication from NT about who may own the land that the lane with the car park is on. The best option may just be to get a date set and work party sorted and go and start work, see who comes and talks to us as suggested at the last meeting.

Permits

We have been receiving the usual insurance and paperwork. Garry Noble at Peter Webster Centre DCC has asked to get a second permit for ABMM for the DCC Whitehall Centre. We have also had one request for a visit to Garden Path.

Christmas Swallet

Nothing more to report but still on my 'to do' list.

Devonshire Mine

Still for sale no more news.

Giants Hole

Access is still limited as the damage to the road is still putting a lot of people off from using the site for caving trips.

Titan

Still no news as to future dates for the work to be carried out on the entrance. Have DCA Projects got any info?

**Ewan Cameron, Access Officer
28/02/15**

Legal & Insurance Officer's Report

Liability booklet

This was approved for publication in June and 200 copies were printed. A good number have been distributed among bookshops and caving outlets across the region; it is available to download from the DCA website or send for by post from the DCA Secretary. A few copies remain. Chris Howes reviewed it favourably in Descent magazine No. 240. It sets out liability issues for both landowners and cavers as they apply under current interpretation of the law and *not* as they might apply if the Countryside & Rights of Way Act of 2000 unequivocally included caving as an "open-air recreation" on Access Land.

Liability Insurance

At BCA's request I assisted and advised in the decision to switch to a new insurance broker and underwriter at the end of 2014. Whilst DCA members may not feel any difference in their pockets, the new cover represents better value for money from a company with extensive experience in the field of Sport & Recreation – the same broker in fact that I dealt with in running DCA's own liability insurance scheme between 2000 and 2006.

Eldon Hill Quarry

Despite problems with troublemakers and the unauthorised use of off-road vehicles on the land, access for cavers on the terms agreed with Chatsworth, Natural England and the tenant farmer in 2013 (see website) has remained unaffected. In November the box and its contents were stolen, presumably in the belief it contained valuables, and had to be replaced. At the same time I fitted a combination lock to the gate at the farmer's request.

Holme Bank Chert Mine

During the year the occupier (Joe Oldfield of Oldfield Design) drew up an "Assumption of Risk & Liability Release Agreement" for visitors to sign. Basically, it was his way of getting visitors to declare they accept the risks and to free him of any vicarious liability for their safety. Joe should know that BCA-insured cavers are covered by a policy that indemnifies him as a Principal. I have had no feedback on whether *all* visitors are asked to sign or whether it only applies to non-DCA and non-PICA members.

Pleasley Vale Rail Cutting Pot

Following a brief hiccup at the start of the year when Notts Wildlife Trust changed the lock and overlooked to notify DCA, I have heard no more on the subject of bats or a proposed written access agreement.

Waterfall Hole

Nothing to report on clearing ground for a car park. 2015 may see progress on this project.

Re-election

I am happy to be considered for a further year in office.

*Peter Mellors, Legal & Insurance Officer
February 2015*

Project Officer's Report

Since the last report by myself on the 21st June 2014 the following items have occurred:

- Over 2 visits Pete Knight, Ian Web, Ewan Cameron & Bob Dearman have installed the new gate in Bateman's level in Lathkill Dale NNR. The lock mechanism needs a small adjustment in the near future but is otherwise complete.
I believe the DCA have received payment now for the work + previous gating work done in the Dale.
Job status: 99% Complete.
- Some progress was made installing BP Bolts to the shaft, this work is ongoing and is being coordinated by Jules Barrett.
- Just before the onset of winter, Gordon Wordsworth completed the concrete cap on the Credit Crunch Shaft at Oxlow Farm.
A few weeks after I returned and fitted the steel lid from Bob Dearman's store and the 'Derbyshire Key' locking mechanism.
Job status: Complete.
- After purchasing a new drill and battery grinder, I was finally able to install the stainless steel plaque on to the shaft cap at Nettle Pot.

My personal thanks go out to Bob Dearman for his continued support for a new projects officer. I'd also like to point out the great value of the help freely given to the DCA by both Ian Web and Gordon Wordsworth. The 2 projects would doubtless still be languishing on the 'to-do' list if not for them.

Finally, thanks also to Jez Parr CIC for the loan of a resin applicator and resin for the completion of the CCS and Nettle plaque jobs and Dan Hibberts for loan of a petrol disk cutter and various bits of steelwork.

I have deliberately come to a pause with projects prior to this meeting (although the snow probably would have stopped things anyway). I think the council should look at the current list of potential projects and discuss what needs prioritising and what can be dropped.

I have been asked (and agreed to) supply some conservation tape to a digging team for placement in Carlswark Cavern.

Martyn Grayson has also contacted me to ask if the DCA would turn its attention to a section of old wooden shoring on the main Carlswark round trip. He has looked at it and has concerns that it may be near the end of its useful life. As someone who knows the system well, I am in complete agreement.

Martyn has also said that he would be willing to organise and undertake the work himself if the DCA would make some of our materials (Amco barrier etc..) available for the job.

Pete Knight, Projects Officer
13/2/15

Training Officer's Report

This is actually my 25th year as training officer and when I looked back through the photos of all the workshops and events that DCA has run in that time, I felt very proud of what DCA has achieved and honoured to have worked alongside so many talented and dedicated cavers. Some sadly are no longer with us and we should remember them and what they shared with us. Our workshops seem to be gaining pace with new and enthusiastic cavers coming along, this year looks to be just as busy with lot of events and workshops taking place.

DCA Caver Workshops

As you are all probably aware, we have run many workshops in various topics over the last 20 years or so with specialist subjects such as photography etc. Some of which are run at a loss if the numbers are short. If we make any money, the proceeds go back into the pot to cover shortfalls later on. Sometimes, individual cavers are not able to attend organised club events or clubs themselves do not have anyone at the appropriate level to run training in certain topics. The DCA training workshops for these such people provide valuable opportunities and I encourage everyone to support them in any way they can.

As training officer, it falls in my duties to respond to demand of the clubs and individual cavers to provide provision for training in many aspects of caving. My main focus is to encourage and support clubs to run their own training to a high standard, as you know, I am a big believer that training should be provided by caving clubs for their members. This is achieved by either running a workshop directly for the club, setting up a workshop with a specialist trainer or training up their own training officer. I will continue to assess the level 3 of the DCA club scheme (SRT competence) for those that wish to have their SRT certified to the required standard of the scheme.

REPORTS ON 2014 EVENTS

These are the workshops that were run last year:

Ladders, Lifelines and Self Rescue Workshop

This practical workshop was run for cavers who were or in the future will be responsible for the rigging of pitches and the lifelining of other cavers climbing electron ladders.

Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop

Taken directly from the CIC scheme - *A candidate must be skilled and fluent in Single Rope Technique (SRT) and pull-through abseiling and be competent to use and coach all these techniques in a safe and effective fashion to others. The skills required include the ability to rig pitches, traverses and climbs to best and safe advantage.*

Above all the candidate should have clear judgement on the appropriateness of different vertical caving techniques to suit the skills, nature and size of his / her groups.

Cave Leader Workshop

This practical workshop, ideal for cavers already or are thinking about leading others underground proved to be very rewarding for the 6 people who attended. This specialist, low cost day looked at the leadership skills and knowledge required for leading parties underground.

Digital Cave Photography Workshop - this didn't run last year and those who showed interest were introduced to the workshop run in Wales.

SRT Introduction Workshop

Another sold out day for those at the beginning of their SRT caving.

SRT Underground Master class

This day was run from Castleton to 6 cavers. There was a variety of experience in the group which really helped to move the pace along. All I will say about this day is that it was brilliant fun. If you want to know what we get up to on these masterclasses.... Come on one.

2015 EVENTS

Caving Club Training Officers Workshop

This is **THE** workshop for 'Training the Trainers' which we run every year. Many clubs already have a CTO to whom it usually falls to organise and supervise training for newly joined novice cavers. Please contact us for further details.

SRT Introduction Workshop - Sunday May 17th

An ideal starting point for those who are in the beginning of their SRT caving. No equipment needed as we have plenty on hand for you to try. A great day which will save you money and time on equipment and picking up tips from friendly SRT professionals.

Cave Leader Assessment Workshop

A practical trip aimed at cavers who are already or who are thinking about leading others underground. This is an ideal opportunity to put yourself up against a BCA trainer/assessor for the day to look at leadership skills, techniques and equipment in a friendly and informal way.

Ropework Training Workshop/Ladder Skills Workshop - Saturday April 4th

An introduction to basic rigging principles quickly moving onto knots.. always a great topic full of myths and legends about what knots 'should' be used where etc.

SRT Underground Master class - Sunday June 28th

Is you SRT safe and effective? These trips have proved to be the most popular workshops that we run now. The day includes personal progression, rigging and a look at self rescue techniques. These days have limited places and always sell out - so please book well in advance.

SRT Module 3 assessment - Saturday June 13th - places available £20 per person

This is the assessment of personal SRT progression and is formally assessed by the club caving scheme assessor who is also an assessor for the BCA CIC scheme to ensure that your SRT is up to the highest standard. Training for this is usually undertaken by the club training officer or a DCA SRT workshop.

***Nigel Atkins, DCA. Training Officer
February 2015***

Nigel has also supplied a handout giving details of the 2015 Caver Training Events which has already been circulated by email to members.

Equipment Officer's Report

The following has occurred since the last AGM.

1. Eight new BP anchors were placed in Pilkington's Cavern (Speedwell) to supplement the already installed other type stainless steel anchors.
2. A report of two suspected loose anchors at the top of the 1st pitch in P8 turned out to be incorrect. Six anchors around the area were checked to 10kN (EN959 only requires 6kN) and were found to be OK. It then transpired that the suspect anchors were at the top of where the old iron ladder (high level route between the 1st and 2nd pitches) used to be situated. These were checked and movement of the anchor/resin interface was detected. The installers (JB & ST) replaced the anchors but noted that it took approx. three quarters of an hour and a lot of effort and force to extract the old anchors using a mixture of drilling out and extraction with the Hydrajaws. This was no surprise given the mode of failure observed during the initial anchor testing in Ingleton Quarry where the peak failure loads of both BP and Eco anchors were observed to still require axial extraction loads of >20kN to fully remove them from the substrate. This exercise provided proof that reporters of suspected anchor problems need to give precise locations to DCA otherwise unnecessary time and effort is wasted by the installers.
3. It was reported that there was a loose anchor in JH Mine on the alternative descent from the Workshop, which turned out not to be a DCA installed P anchor. This was replaced and noted that there were other dubious anchors on this descent.
4. Just this morning a report came in from Pete Knight that a friend of his has reported a loose anchor at a re-belay in Router Shaft. This will be dealt with shortly.
5. The project to re-bolt the Filthy Fives in Giants is on hold until a satisfactory solution can be found to de-water St. Valentine's sump. The anchors projected for the shaft in Bateman's Level have not yet been installed. Also the project to re-bolt the alternative route down JH Mine mentioned in 3. is in the pipeline.
6. The protracted problems with the BCA E&T committee experienced by both DCA and CNCC have in the recent past meant that both regional councils have not sent representatives to recent meetings. DCA has sent an observer but the minutes of the meetings have not been passed on to me. I am not prepared to attend these meetings again as I am of the opinion that the present co-operation between DCA and CNCC is working well and no real benefits are to be had from involving myself in the internecine regional warfare that has been a trademark of this committee. I am prepared to carry on as Equipment Officer and Anchor Trainer but should DCA find my attitude to the E&T Committee not to their liking I would not be disappointed if someone else took over the job.

***Bob Dearman, Equipment Officer
25th Feb 2015***

DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Annual Report

1. Problems reported.

There have been some issues with high carbon dioxide in caves reported during the last year, specifically in Nettle, Knotlow, Water Icicle Close Cavern, Lathkill Head Upper Entrance and Robin's Shaft, but the number of reports received, and the number of venues where issues have occurred, have been far less than in some recent years.

Most recently, a group descending Robin's Shaft on 16 January reported that they had experienced excessive carbon dioxide concentrations, and that this had affected their caving. On Tuesday 10 February, I visited the mine armed with both of the DCA meters, and recorded fairly low levels of the gas (approximately 0.5%). This was to be predicted, as the period between their report and my assessment was very wintry and extremely cold - conditions which we know tend to reduce the amount of the gas in underground locations.

2. Measurements.

Gas levels were recorded in Robin's Shaft, Water Icicle Close Cavern, Mouldridge Mine, Bagshawe Cavern and Whalfe/Hillocks Mine, Jugholes, Waterways Swallet, Knotlow, Lathkill Upper Entrance and Hazard Mine. All these readings have been added to the database.

3. Equipment.

DCA now has the use of a Crowcon Gasman CO₂ meter and a GasAlertClip Extreme O₂ meter. Through the DCRO and Able Safety, I have received training and equipment to enable me to calibrate the Crowcon meter at no cost to DCA. The GasAlertClip Extreme meter, in common with most O₂ meters is fairly easy to calibrate in clean air, and requires no special equipment or sample gases.

4. Equipment Usage.

Throughout the year, there have only been two requests to use the DCA meters.

*Alan Brentnall,
February 2015*

Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report

2014 has seen publication of *The Derbyshire Caver* recommence after a short hiatus through 2013. Two issues have been produced during the year, one in Spring and one in Autumn, this being my target when I became editor at the last AGM. The year has seen the adoption of colour for the front cover and it seems to have been generally agreed that this has considerably enhanced the appearance of the publication. An added benefit is that the back cover can also be produced in colour at no additional printing cost.

The cover price has been increased from £1.50 to £2.00 per copy and from £7.00 to £9.00 for a 4-issue subscription due to increased printing and postage costs. However, this is the first such increase since 2000.

Sadly, the content of both issues has been dominated by obituaries and this will regretfully continue with the publication of the next issue, Spring 2015. Nevertheless, some very interesting articles have been submitted and published during 2014 and I hope that this will continue through the coming year. It is my intention to get back to 4 issues per year for 2015 but of course this is dependent upon Peak District cavers putting metaphorical pen to paper. I do have the promise of some interesting material and hopefully this and more besides will come to fruition.

I have started work recently on the production of the index of the Newsletter from the first issue in 1962 up to the present time. This will take time of course but I do feel that it will be a useful tool for cavers as there is a lot of material available in back numbers that does not appear elsewhere.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted material for publication in 2014 – please keep it coming for 2015!

*Mike Higgins, DCA Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer
15/2/14*

Report from DCA Representative to BCA Council

I have represented DCA at the BCA AGM in June and also at Council Meetings throughout the year.

BCA made a significant step in involving its members when it was decided to hold a poll on the members' view of whether they felt the Countryside & Rights of Way Act should apply to going underground. This had been debated throughout the year and it was clear that member's views were divided so a poll of **all** members (Club Individual Members, Direct Individual Members, Member clubs, Constituent bodies, etc.) was successfully held in December 2014.

A good deal was learnt about how best to conduct a poll of members on future occasions; it had to be done by post on this occasion but it was felt that the expenditure was justified as this is potentially the most important issue facing cavers at present. A clear result was achieved from which BCA can move forward and the Chairman is already in contact with the relevant officials in Defra and Natural England and discussions are ongoing, albeit on an informal basis for the present.

It is intended that in the future BCA should be able to contact all its members directly by email where this is possible and steps are afoot to enable this to happen. There is a possibility that in future polls of members' views could be held electronically (far more cheaply than post) and there is already an electronic BCA Newsletter on the website, which it is hoped may be circulated direct to all members in the future. Individual Members are being asked to provide BCA with their email addresses to enable all this to happen. This can also be used to ensure that BCA membership lists are completely up to date in future by allowing members to update their own entries. There are some snags to be overcome and security issues to be addressed but these are in hand.

It is pleasing also to see the revival of the BCA Conservation & Access Committee under the new C&A Officer, Andrew Hinde. A good deal has been achieved in just over a year and the Committee is already addressing the long overdue revision of the various Cave Conservation Codes, Minimal Impact Caving Codes, etc. which date back to the days of NCA in the 1990's.

DCA has had an observer at BCA Equipment and Techniques meetings since 2013; Boyd Potts took on this role and, where he has been unable to attend, I have filled in for him. The Committee now seems to have put behind it the factional infighting of previous years and my own view is that real progress is now being made and that DCA should now have a representative, rather than just an observer.

It is worth noting that all Minutes of BCA Council and of its Committees, the Newsletter etc. are posted on the BCA website. So, if you want to know what is happening, go to www.british-caving.org.uk, where you find all these and much other useful information, downloadable leaflets, etc.

BCA is committed to holding the EuroSpeleo event in Britain in 2016 and arrangements are well in hand for this. There is enthusiastic support from members and BCA is determined to make this an event to remember.

Jenny Potts, DCA Representative to BCA Council

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION (PROVISIONAL)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2014

(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Previous Year (2013)</u>
General admin. / Information Services, etc.		
Travel	154.25	141.75
Post	87.12	57.20
Phone / Email	15.00	5.00
Materials, printing, copying, etc.	344.17	214.60
	600.54	418.55
Conservation and Access, etc.		
Travel	216.50	530.25
Post / phone / email / paperwork	6.28	32.97
Materials	181.41	190.64
	404.19	753.86
Cave Conservation Plans / Underground Cons. Forum		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	20.38	0.00
	20.38	0.00
Equipment, Anchor Installation, etc.		
Travel	0.00	21.00
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	198.90	159.23
	198.90	180.23
Publications: Newsletter, Consn. Audits, Handbook, etc.		
Newsletter	487.65	0.00
Printing, postage, etc. Conservation Audits	343.31	1.40
Handbook	0.00	4.40
Caves of the Peak District	39.45	79.90
Other	188.00	213.21
Website Expenses	60.00	0.00
	1,118.41	298.91
Training, PICA Liaison, Youth Development, etc.		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	4.56
Training Events, instruction, etc.	170.00	0.00
Youth Development: Cliffhanger, etc.	488.65	164.39
	658.65	168.95
SSSI Conservation work for Natural England		
Travel / communications / materials 2012/13	0.00	1,516.86
Travel / communications / materials 2013/14	1,474.23	
	1,474.23	1,516.86
Cave Conservation Emergency Fund (WICC gate)	0.00	0.00
Cave Discovery Fund Grants Paid Out	0.00	0.00
Donations to other organisations, causes, etc.	0.00	0.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>4,475.30</u>	<u>3,337.36</u>

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION (PROVISIONAL)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2014

(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)

INCOME	2014	Previous Year (2013)
Subscriptions & Entry Fees, (Individual Members only)	433.00	378.50
Publications Sales		
Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver"	104.80	42.00
Masson Conservation Audit	11.00	0.00
Jug Holes Information Pack	18.00	0.00
Cumberland/Wapping Conservation Audit	203.00	23.80
Manifold/Hamps Conservation Audit	27.00	12.80
Stoney Middleton Conservation Audit	71.00	
Caves of the Peak District	1,161.00	1,183.70
Handbook	19.50	33.20
	1,615.30	1,295.50
Donations from Members		
To General Fund	194.25	227.75
To Cave Discovery Fund	0.00	0.00
To Cave Conservation Emergency Fund, etc.	0.00	0.00
Donations from Non-Members to Youth Development Fund	10.00	164.39
	204.25	392.14
BCA Grants		
Core Funding (Admin. and Cons. Access.)	1,053.50	1,696.57
Training	260.00	0.00
	1,313.50	1,696.57
Awards & Grants by Non-Caving Organisations		
Natural England SSSI projects 2012/13	0.00	3,818.61
Natural England SSSI projects 2013/14	731.84	0.00
Other	0.00	4.83
	731.84	3,823.44
Cavers Training Course Fees	30.00	0.00
Refreshments at Meetings	34.00	0.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME	<u>4,361.89</u>	<u>7,586.15</u>
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,475.30	
Excess Income over Expenditure (- loss)	<u>-113.41</u>	

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION (PROVISIONAL)

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2014

Balances brought forward to 1 January 2014

Previous Year (2013)

Bank	Current Account	674.65	1,108.88
	Deposit Account	18,163.42	13,519.23
Cash in Hand	Conservation Officer	102.02	0.00
		-----	-----
Add excess income		18,940.09	14,628.11
Add interest on Deposit Account		-113.41	4,248.79
		71.46	63.19
		-----	-----
Balance to Carry Forward at 31 December 2014		18,898.14	18,940.09
		=====	=====

Balances Brought Forward to 1 January 2015

Bank	Current Account	1,111.12	674.65
	Deposit Account	17,616.18	18,163.42
Cash in Hand	Conservation Officer	170.84	102.02
	Total Expenses unclaimed in error	0.00	0.00
		-----	-----
		18,898.14	18,940.09
		=====	=====

Note that the balance carried forward includes:

Held in Cave Discovery Fund	417.73	417.73
Held in DCA Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	1,002.66	1,002.66

ASSETS HELD AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

Assets Held

Previous Year (2013)

Materials/Equipment: (Value Written down by 20% p.a.)

DCA Banner (2008)	36.25	45.32
DCA Laminated notices (2008)	15.41	19.27
DCA Stand shelter etc. (2008)	56.09	70.12
Belle Cement Mixer & Honda Engine (1997)	0.00	0.00
DCA Artificial Speleological System, etc. (2010)	255.57	319.47
Tarpaulin (7m x 5.4m)	13.77	17.21
Hand-torches for use in ASS (x 6)	9.19	11.48
Tent pegs for use with Tarp. (x 30)	4.59	5.74
Helmets for use with ASS (x 10)	19.11	23.88
Headtorches for use with ASS (2 x Alpkit)	10.24	12.80
Large holdall to store helmets, lamps & batteries.	10.24	12.80
Laminated notices	5.12	6.40
2 x Display stands (donated to DCA) (approx value)	153.60	192.00
HP Business Injet 3000	51.20	64.00
Dewalt Angle Grinder (Purchased in 2012)	134.37	167.97
Stationary Box / Lid, Torches + Bats, Tape (2012)	21.72	27.15
Stationery items, name badges (2012)	2.55	3.19
Pin Badges (2012)	14.07	17.59
Laminated Posters (2012)	3.84	4.80
21' x 12' Container.	528.00	660.00
Fencing materials - Posts rails and wire	126.08	157.60
Steel mesh panels - 28 no various sizes & 18 x Steel angle iron, 2m.	960.00	1,200.00
Plastic Wheelite pipe - 6m x600mm and 3m x 750mm	400.00	500.00
HGI 2.8Kw Honda 240 and 110 volt outputs generator.	304.00	380.00
Media projector. NEC M300W and Screen for above.	558.08	697.60
Gas Meters. Sperian PHD6. Partially functional but can be repaired.	128.00	160.00
Crowcon Gasman IR CO2 meter.	390.40	488.00
Gas Meter.	198.90	
BW GasAlert clip Extreme	94.72	118.40
20 no Conservation plastic Tape red 15mm x 50 m.	25.60	32.00
SS Wire 3 mm dia conservation tape pegs. 100 x 30cm; 50 x 60cm. £2 each.	192.00	240.00

Publications:

Cave Conservation Publications (Nom. Val. at Trade Pr.)	184.00	144.00
Caves of the Peak District (Nom. Val. at Trade Pr.)	10,907.00	12,038.00
Peak District Access & Rigging Guide (Nom. Val. At Trade Pr.)	312.50	312.36

Total value assets held 16,126.22 18,149.15

*W.Sheldon
31-Dec-14*

NOTE: Provisional Accounts presented subject to inspection/audit