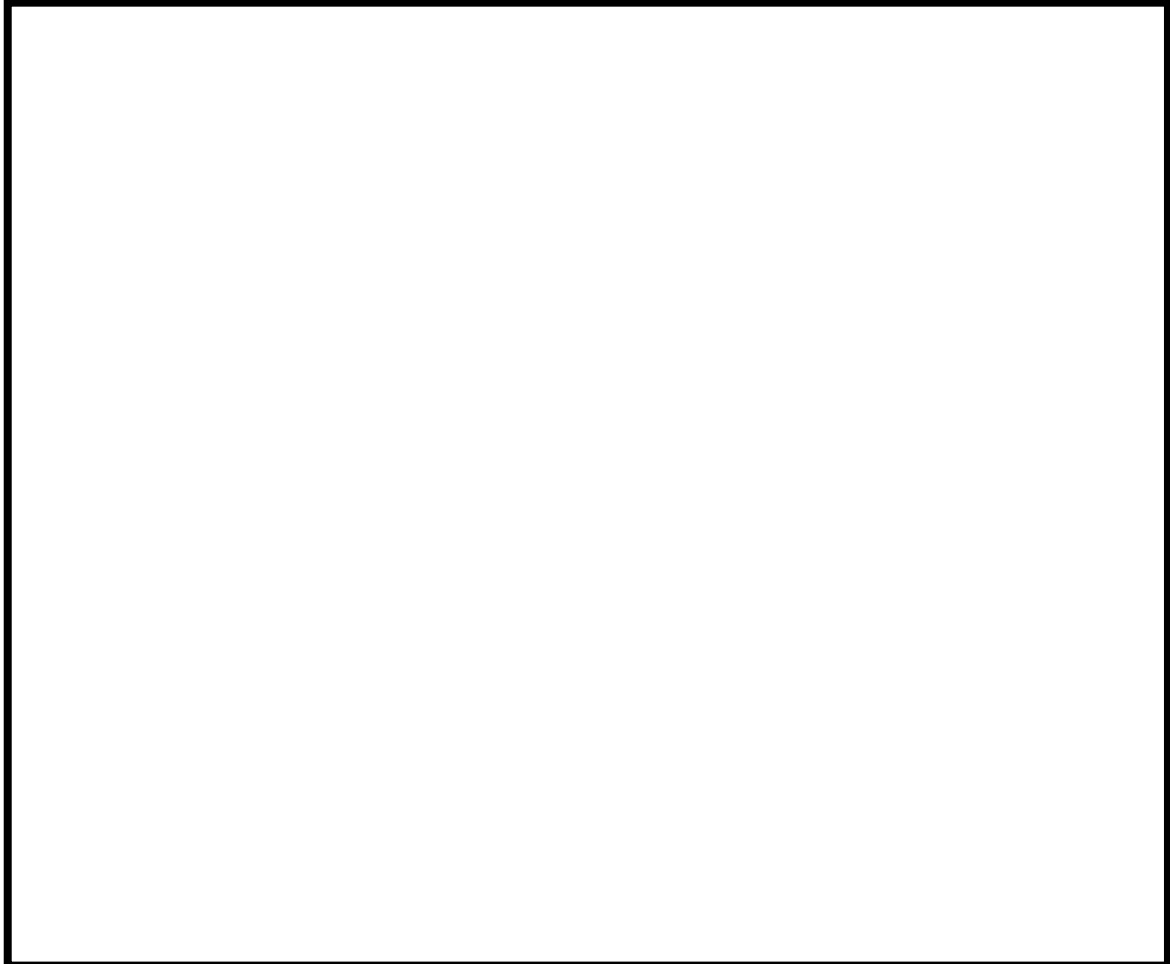


The Derbyshire Caver

No. 125



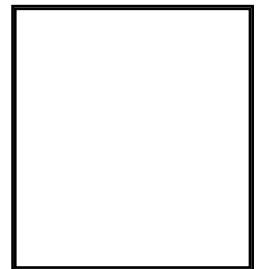
"Fight for Life" The Neil Moss Tragedy DVD

Dowse Hole Clean-up

Work in Manifold Valley

P8's New Car Park

Peak Cavern Round-up



The newsletter of the

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

£1.50

THE DERBYSHIRE CAVER

Autumn 2006

No. 125

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The DCA website is at: www.theDCA.org.uk

Cover Photo: Ralph Johnson and Steve Knox working on the pointing to the ginging in Knotlow Climbing Shaft
Photo by: Dave Webb

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Just give us a call to discuss your
training requirements.

I was on a recent trip down Knotlow Cavern Climbing Shaft. In the past I have always found the shaft entrance awkward due to its small size, especially with a tackle bag when rigging the pitch. This time it was much easier.

The reason? As usual the Coffin Dodgers had been in action behind the scenes! The shaft entrance is now wider. They, along with the Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club, the TSG and other clubs, are often beavering away in the background carrying out work in caves and mines for the good of all cavers in the Peak.

We should all be grateful for the hard work these cavers carry out voluntarily for the good of all.

NEW CAR PARK FOR P8

After a few reminders, the Derbyshire County Council have finally completed the new Car Park for cavers visiting P8.

The previous lay-by was removed after work was carried out to route the Pennine Bridleway past the location.

Interestingly, while the work was being carried three shafts were discovered. One was beneath the old rubbish bin and was only just over a metre deep and was blind so it was filled in. The remaining two were about 10 metres or so deep and although they also appeared to be blind, they have been covered by ordinary manhole covers and so remain accessible.

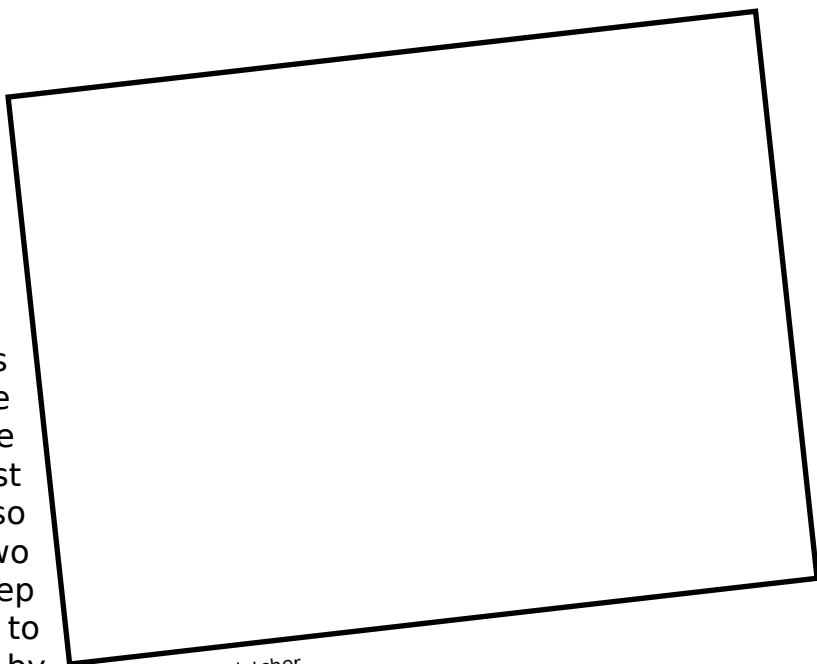


Photo by Karen Slatcher

by Wayne Sheldon

PEAK SEASON

The 2006 Season ended in March 2006, so if anybody would like a trip into the system for their club or themselves when the next begins in October, they should contact John Beck at the usual address on the rear of this Newsletter.

Public Liability insurance is required for access to the system and evidence needs to be shown to the keyholders before your trip.

PEAK/SPEEDWELL ACTIVITIES

Second Look Passage, Coral Aven, Far Sump Extensions

In late June 2006, the bedding crawl at the top of Coral Aven was investigated by Wayne Sheldon, Ann Soulsby and John Highfield following the advice of Nigel Ball who had recently re-climbed the aven with Dave Shearsmith at the beginning of June but they were stopped by a constriction in the crawl.

Coral Aven was originally climbed in December 1986 by John Cordingley up three pitches to reach a bedding crawl but this wasn't pushed due to the number of other areas in extension that showed more promise. All exploration in this area was undertaken after diving through the 385m long Far Sump, the dry connection through to James Hall Over Engine Mine, Speedwell Cavern and the Titan entrance wasn't open at this point in time.

The constriction is awkward but was passed into an easier going passage for about 7 metres to a choke of medium sized boulders, where a black void could be seen beyond. Five minutes of digging created a gap big enough to pass through into the base of an aven, the aven is about 8 metres long, about 10 metres high and 3 metres wide at its widest. A way on was spotted about 10 metres above the entry point but aid climbing will be required to reach this. At the other end of the aven, a short hand and knees crawl led to an approximately 6m pitch into a rift. On a subsequent trip in early July, Keith Joule and Wayne returned, the clean washed pitch was bolted and descended for 6m into a narrow rift. The rift closed up behind us while in front it opened out into a small sloping chamber where it was possible to stand. From the chamber a low, muddy stoop went down at about 45 degrees, slightly bending to the left, before a 90 degree bend into the top of a wide rift. It looked very promising for a few seconds then we realised... we had come back into the top of Stemple Highway. A 10m pitch was rigged which dropped to the floor, about 15m from Coral Aven on the JH side. The aven is marked on the Peak Cavern survey but had never been climbed because it didn't look promising from below. Another piece of the jigsaw has been put in place. We now have to return to climb the aven but other engagements have meant we haven't had the opportunity yet.

Ink Sump

John Taylor and Jim Lister aided by various other divers have been gradually transporting scaffolding, ladders and other associated items through to Doom's Retreat ready for a major digging effort on the choke. A new dive line has been laid through the sump and the old line removed.

Styx Inlet Sump

The sump has now been surveyed and three small airbells have been located. More progress has been made, the current limit of exploration is currently 45 metres from base (at 2m depth) and more digging is needed to pass a restriction.

Main Rising

John Volanthen has recently been diving at Main Rising. In May 2006, John dived down to the base of the New Leviathan at -71 metres. He found the way on but the flow of water that was being emitted from this passage was too strong to allow him to enter, this causing a whirlpool effect with the sand. Drier and lower water conditions would be required so that the sediment would be settled and thus allow access to this passage. During July, John returned in excellent visibility, but found the way on was a complete

sediment blockage; just enough room to get his arm into the space above it. The sump is concluded at -71m for the time being. In the future, the sediment blockage might move to allow access into the continuation that must exist, as Main Rising issues a very large head of water over the winter months.

The Rasp

During the summer of 2006, Henry Rockcliffe, along with other members of Sheffield University Speleological Society, have returned to the upstream sumps of the Rasp to where they left off last year. (See DCA N/L 121)

Sump three was pumped, and then dropped to a canal approx 6 metres long before this was emptied out to reveal a nasty duck to a small bedding chamber with a steep mud bank. This rose about 1 metre to a perched sump which was siphoned out to 3 before it was entered to find it very wet and tight, with a very small draught so it was abandoned.

During the course of the pumping project, the downstream sump was found to have dried up so this was entered by some desperate squeezing and little digging and a passage led for 10 metres to a 3 metre wide, 35cm high chamber. A small passage downstream was entered for 4 metres to where a haul cord was found wrapped around a rock column, taken in there by the winter floods.

Collated by Wayne Sheldon

News From Around the Peak

Andy Cave - Lecture at Buxton Fire Station

For 20 years Andy Cave has been exploring the remote mountain ranges of the world, establishing desperate new routes. Andy was recently voted one of the top three all round climbers in Britain. He is an experienced public speaker and has a PhD in linguistics.

On Saturday 13th May, Andy gave a lecture illustrated with fantastic slides of his life so far, beginning as a coal miner then becoming a climber and mountaineer.

The event raised money for the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund, Blythe House Hospice and World Vision Charity.

Ed Driscoll of the Old Smithy in Monyash

Ed Driscoll, proprietor of the Old Smithy Cafe in

Monyash, sadly died of a heart attack in May. Ed was a supporter of cavers and sold The Derbyshire Caver and also displayed a DCRO collecting box.

The Old Smithy is often a nice place to visit after a trip in one of the mines in the Hillocks/Knotlow system or any of the Lathkill Dale caves and also when there are DCA Council Meetings.

The Cafe closed for a few days but has since re-opened and the family will continue to run it. I'm sure they would welcome continuing custom and support.

Geocaching and Winnats Head Cave

Following a posting on the BCA Forum - see www.british-caving.org.uk - it appears that a Geocache has been placed in Winnats Head Cave and publicised on a Geocaching website.

Geocaching is a high-tech version of the tradition of "letter-

boxing" on Dartmoor where a cache is hidden in some location for others to find when the location is made available by clue or map reference (or GPS position).

Caves and mines are not a suitable location for this activity as it entices those without caving experience, equipment or an appreciation of access requirements or conservation issues, underground. Winnats Head Cave is definitely a bad choice!

The DCA Access and Conservation Team, plus representatives of the BCA, have contacted the Chairman of the Geocaching Organisation to come to an agreement with respect to the issue.

Buster Wright

Buster Wright died in early June after losing his battle with lung cancer. We know that some hearing this will not have known Buster but others will have known him for many years and have fond memories of him. Buster

was a Derbyshire caver (and prolific digger) for round about three decades and he was an active DCRO team member until he and Kym moved to North Nottinghamshire in the mid 1990's

Titan on Telly

Recently award-winning cameraman Rob Franklin was filming in Titan for BBC's 'Inside Out'. This team filmed Sidetrack Cave for the same programme in 2003 with excellent results. The program was broadcast on 6th November but only in the Yorkshire/Lincolnshire region (I got to see a program about individuals taking part in a ballet competition!). Clips were shown from the program during various news programs on the BBC during the day and certainly seemed interesting.

As a side effect of the broadcast was a stirring of interest in the media with newspapers and radio also picking up on what the BBC was referring to as "the

recent discovery if the UK's biggest cave: Titan" with Moose (Dave Nixon) being interviewed by Stuart Maconie on Radio 2's "Chris Evans Show".

The "Hitch'n'Hike" "Peak District Caving News" web site reported a dramatic increase in daily visitors with a large increase in the number of downloads of their PDF document guide to Titan. They have also been "inundated" with email requesting information on Titan and caving in general.

"Fight for Life" Video about the Neil Moss Tragedy

Dave Webb has completed his film "Fight for Life - the Neil Moss Story". The film has been some years in the making and is the story of the heroic attempt to rescue a trapped caver from the narrow confines of a shaft in the depths of Peak Cavern in March 1959. Dave has released the film on DVD and it

has been previewed to members of the DCRO (coincidentally after a rescue practice in Moss Chamber, Peak Cavern, where the tragedy occurred) and also at this year's Hidden earth.

See Jeny Potts' review of the DVD in this Issue.

New Cave in Moss Rake

Mark Noble was contacted by somebody from Moss Rake opencast flourspar in August letting him know that a hole had been intersected during workings. So, on the 9th of August, Mark together with Wendy Noble and Moose (Dave Nixon) had a quick look while John Beck took photos. They found a loose, steep pitch which landed on a slope and headed back under the quarry.

After reaching a small chamber and after having a dig it was decided that there wouldn't be much progress. The total depth reached was about 20 metres.

Dig Started in Stoney Middleton

Afetr seeking and gaining permission, Mark Noble and John Beck have begun a dig at a promising location north of Needham's Rake in the area of Linen dale.

Diving Action in Bagshawe Cavern

In July, John Lister and John Taylor supported by Ann Soulsby have been investigating upstream in Sump 5. John Taylor climbed an aven here.

The next month Marcus Crabbe was at Bagshawe Resurgence Cave removing debris. A later dive by John Taylor discovered that stabilising work would be needed before further investigation.

Work Continues at Waterway Swallet

The digging team from Keyhole C.C. are continuing their work at Waterways Swallet, hopefully there will be more discoveries to come.

Orpheus Diggers Return to Democratic Cave

After scaffolding the large pile of boulders at Owl Hole in Dowall Dale which forms one side of the current dig and leaving things to stabilise and settle, the Orpheus C.C. digging stalwarts, Ken Morton and Mick Chambers, have returned to the other ongoing project at Democratic Cave in the Crowdecote area.

Glebe Mineshaft at Eyam Capped

Glebe mineshaft at Eyam is in a housing development area and recently the shaft has been capped with concrete by the construction company.

With thanks to Hitch'n'Hike's web site

Don't forget to visit Hitch'n'Hike's excellent web site on
www.hnh.dircon.co.uk

Around the World in 80 Caves

A free public lecture by Professor John Gunn at The University of Huddersfield

22nd November 2006

The University of Huddersfield has a long history of geographical research and the application of that research to solve environmental problems. One of our specialisms has been the study of limestone (karst) terrains and this lecture will describe some of Professor John Gunn's research and consultancy projects which have taken him to some of the finest landscapes on, and under, the earth.

DCA/BCA BOLTING COURSE

The day started at 10.30am and a full breakfast at the newly opened Wardlow Mires café.

Our trainer for this course was Les Sykes. The DCA team was Dave Cowley, Bob Dearman, Dave Williams, Tim Holling (Orpheus), Alan Walker and myself.

The first hour was spent updating everyone on current trends and me firing off as usual about replacing 8mm bolts instead of putting eco hangers to the side of them. T Pot also joined us for this debate and his views were very welcome and useful.

The team made good use of Les and bombarded him with loads of questions. Indeed, I think Les was quite impressed by our enthusiasm and passion for the work we do in DCA. I was personally grateful that he made the time and effort to arrange this day for us, I have known Les for many years and his own

enthusiasm for the work he does is fantastic.

The team then departed for the cave. I chose Bagshawe Cavern as the venue for a number of reasons. We had the room to move about at the top of the Dungeon Pitch and see what was going on. The 8mm bolts in the roof were in the right position and their sites could be replaced. The bolts put in would be genuinely used by cavers and not stuck on some quarry wall. The start of the traverse gave us an interesting scenario and we deliberated on whether to put 2 bolts in or 1? The decision to put just one in was decided as a second could be put in later and a natural back up could be found further down the passage. The 8mm I placed years ago in the rift was left as was, I don't think many people know its there anyway!

Les was amused at how long it took me to remove the 8mm bolts! We agreed to disagree on

this topic as the DCA team were unanimous in my approach and even though Les is a big guy, there were more of us than him! On returning to Wardlow, a meeting was held to discuss how we move forward and what work needs to be done first. I agreed to replace the 2 bolts in Giants on the approach to Garlands Pot as these had already been approved by DCA from a request from DCRO and PICA. The subject of removing some bolts also came up and this needs to be presented to the next DCA meeting.

My personal thanks go to the following:

Les Sykes for his enthusiasm and friendship, Peter Revell for the venue and Dave Cowley for having to put up with me!

Good caving

Nigel Atkins

D.C.A. Training officer

DCA Caving Courses

2006/7

In the Peak District

Introduction to SRT

Sunday December 10th 2006
£20.00 per person

Intermediate 1 Caving Day

Tuesday December 12th 2006
£30.00 per person

Intermediate 2 Caving Day

Sunday November 19th 2006
£30.00 per person

Intermediate 3 Caving Day

Sunday December 10th 2006
£30.00 per person

BCA CAVE LEADER SCHEME

LC/MLA Training (level 1)

Monday & Tuesday December 4th & 5th 2006

LC/MLA Assessment (level 1)

Wednesday December 6th 2006

LC/MLA Training (level 2)

Monday & Tuesday December 11th & 12th 2006

**For further details please
phone the DCA Training
Officer on:
01283 210666**

Recent Work at the Knotlow/Hillocks Complex

Hillocks Entrance Chamber

Work has recently been carried just inside the Entrance Chamber of Hillocks Mine following discussions with PICA and others who wished to discourage groups from straying beneath the peeling bedding slabs in the roof just inside the entrance.

Leaders sometimes take groups on a short round trip through passages under the floor as an introduction to caving, but the route should be accessed at a slope under the far wall where things are more stable, and not via an alternative route beginning beneath the unstable roof.

There have been several attempts over the years to lever the more precarious slabs out of the roof but no sooner has one been brought down than another is revealed further along. Also there are conservation issues with nearby geologically unusual horizontal roof slickensides, and uncontrolled slab removal came dangerously close to removing this altogether.

Because the site is an SSSI it was decided to avoid unsightly roof props and other engineering solutions and instead construct a

low sloping stone wall as a barrier around the area to direct traffic to the far wall which is the more usual route taken by parties familiar with the system.

A temporary notice has been placed to explain the purpose of the wall.

Knotlow Climbing Shaft Lid

Stretching an injured cover though the small opening of Knotlow Climbing Shaft has always proved difficult, particularly with larger casualties. DCRO recently commented that it would only take a slight enlargement to make things a lot easier so the Coffin Dodgers put it on their list for attention. Clearance had first to be obtained from Natural England and the National Trust but this proved to be a formality only and the job was commenced in early June.

The square opening was been extended by about six inches using an angle grinder to make a rectangular opening which should make rescues via this route much easier. The original lid was replaced but a new bolt will be set in the concrete surround in due course, as will a metal finishing strip.

The opportunity was also taken to point up the loose ginging around the shaft collar.

Work on the lid has kindly been funded by the National Trust (owners of the land) and both projects were carried out by Coffin Dodgers Ralph Johnson, Steve Knox, and Dave Webb. Access is as before using a "Derbyshire Spanner".

PLEASE NOTE: One of the large fastening nuts from the nearby Engine Shaft has disappeared and efforts are being made to locate a replacement that will fit for the old thread type.

In the meantime please be sure to fully tighten the remaining bolt.

Knotlow Triangle Barn

It was good to see that the National Trust is restoring the well known landmark and one-time changing barn in the "triangle" at Knotlow which was on the point of collapse. I am not sure to what purpose it will eventually be put but at least it will remain an important feature in the landscape.

Dave Webb

Diary Dates

BALTIC SPELEOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2007

Visby, Gotland, Sweden - 13-15 August 2007

[www. spel eo. se/ bsc](http://www.spel eo. se/ bsc)

Location: Gotland is a karst island east of the Swedish mainland. Visby, the main city on Gotland, is an old medieval Hansa city. It has been chosen by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The congress venue will be at Wisby Strand. Detailed information on catering facilities, meeting facilities, stand facilities, etc. can be found at www. wi sbyst r and. se. Registration forms for on-line registration will be on the website www. spel eo. se/ bsc by the end of 2006. Early registration fee will be offered until the end of May 2007.

HIDDEN EARTH 2007

Hanley Castle High School, Upton on Severn, Worcs.

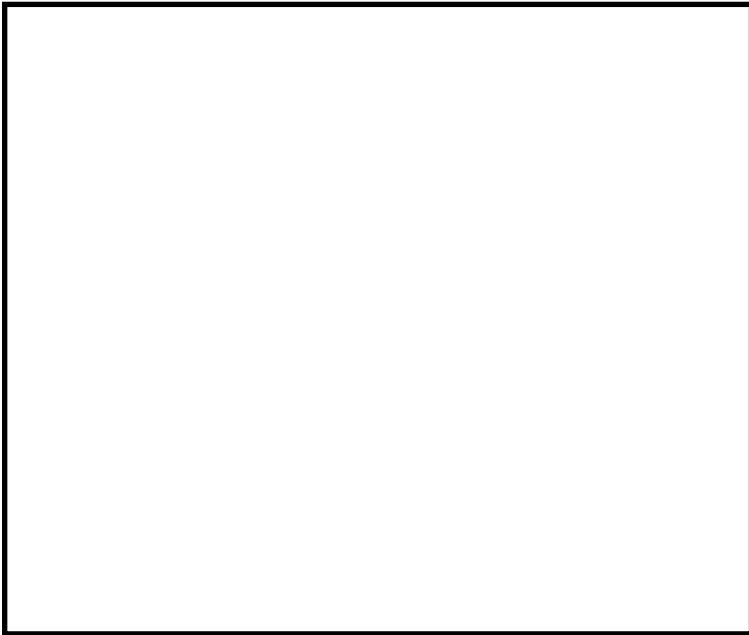
21-23 September 2007

Details will be on www.hidden-earth.org.uk

15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

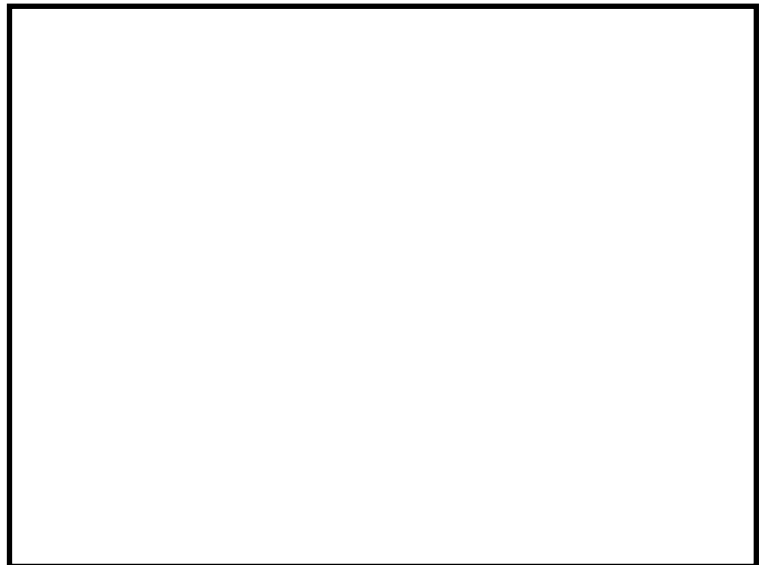
Kerrville, Texas, USA. 19-26 July 2009

www. i cs2009. us



National Trust working on
the restoring the familiar
barn

Photo by: Dave Webb



Steve Knox makes a start on
enlarging the old lid

Photo by: Dave Webb



Ralph Johnson hands another mix
down to Steve Knox working on the
pointing to the ginging in Knotlow
Climbing Shaft

Photo by: Dave Webb

DCA Matters

NEXT DCA MEETING

AGM (open to all DCA Members): Saturday, 24th February 2007, 10am. at Monyash Village Hall

The Hall will be open from about 9.30am with tea, coffee and biscuits on tap. The Old Smithy Cafe, next to the Pub, does an excellent breakfast from about 9am.

Remember that Council Meetings are open to ALL members.

Meetings arranged for the coming year, all at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall, are:

Council Meetings

No more for for this Year

AGM

24 February 2007

Hillocks Mine

A low boundary wall has been built that roughly borders the area of the loose roof slabs in the Entrance Chamber. Much as we hate notices, in order to let people know what it's for and to avoid the possibility of anyone climbing over it a temporary notice has been erected (see below). The wall may be modified or extended later if it is found to be necessary.

DANGER - AREA of UNSTABLE ROOF SLABS
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY

Keep well in front of boundary wall
Temporary Notice 8th June 2006

Dale Mine Access

Dale Mine at Ecton now has a gate on it, courtesy of the Peak Park/Len Kirkham. So, covers need an adjustable spanner to gain access. (No formal access agreement is in force so all entry is unauthorised.)

Dowse Hole Cleanup

Thanks go to the team of 6 workers under the direction of Projects Officer, Wayne Sheldon, who have cleared out the rubbish from Dowse Hole.

Re-taping

Lathkill Head Upper Entrance and Ashford Marble Mine are shortly to be re-taped to protect sensitive areas.

INSTALLATION OF ECO-ANCHORS

If you have any queries about Eco-anchors installed in the region, please contact the Equipment Officer, Dave Cowley, 0114-255-1285, 07956-560055, equipment @ theDCA.org.uk.

New Installers Trained

Following a Training Course organised by Nigel Atkins and Les Sykes at Bagshawe Cavern, DCA now has 6 trained installers: Nigel Atkins, Dave Cowley, Bob Dearman, Tim Holling, Alan Walker & Dave Williams.

Bolt Testing

Dave Cowley's work on bolt testing continues apace: using the Hydrajaws Tester on permanent loan to DCA from BCA, each bolt is subjected to a 6kn axial pull (i.e. a straight pull at right-angles to the rock face). Since April Dave has tested and inspected a further 37 bolts: Eldon Hole (East & West Routes); Knotlow Mine; Nettle Pot (Entrance and Elizabeth Shafts, Crumble and Beza Pots). The total tested so far is now 190 of the nearly 400 bolts currently in place and all have so far passed the test, even those installed as early as 1992. Work continues to test all the bolts in addition to the inspections all have received in the past.

Suggested New Bolt Installations

Giants Hole - The Filthy Five Pitches: DCA Council has approved, subject to conservation issues being satisfied, the removal of the corroded spits and their replacement with Eco-anchors.

Winnats Head: the climbs up in the streamway: DCA Council has approved, subject to conservation issues being satisfied, the removal of the corroded spits (and rotting fixed lines) and their replacement with Eco-anchors. Note that this may require the installation of a pull-thro' but this will depend on inspection.

Work in the Manifold Valley - 2006 Season

Below is a brief summary of the conservation, access and exploration work done in the valley during the drier months of 2006.

During the spring of 2006, the concreting that needed to be done around the entrance of Redhurst Swallet was completed, the new manhole cover/frame installed over the entrance of Snowhole in 2005 was concreted into the river bed and a new manhole frame/cover was fitted over the entrance of Bent Chisel Pot, which was later emptied of in-washed debris down to bedrock. The latter cave is now 6m long to a constriction which needs enlarging. Anyone interested? The new hinged grille was also concreted in place over Ladyside Pot. (Some minor cementing still remains to be done.) A scaffold bar concreted into place across the top of the entrance rift, (or maybe the installation of an eco hanger), would better facilitate a rope belay, as there's just not enough room to effectively use a ladder on the entrance pitch and it's easier to just use a rope to prusik up/use as a handline and pull on.

In June, myself and 3 new members of Darfar P.C. (Eddie Potter, Ian Morley and Pete Ray) had a look down Riverside Swallet. The cave was mostly unchanged, except for silt banks somewhat blocking the way upstream at the bottom. All were impressed by Tumbledown Aven. The passage leading to it was seen to continue past it a short way towards Riverside II, (situated about 20m downstream.) Might be worth digging at the end to extend it. (There might also be more passages between the two caves.)

Also in June, Eddie and Ian made a trip to Pink Chamber in Redhurst swallet with no problems, except for having to bail sump 3 into sump 2 to gain an acceptable airspace. (And having to return on several occasions before being able to get into Drought Series, waiting for sump 4 to go down.) The entrance series is also now clear of rubbish, thanks to the excellent new gate installed in 2005 by the National Trust.

In mid-July Ladyside Pot was descended and the cave between the first upstream and downstream sumps explored. Much aquatic wildlife was observed either in the sumps or smaller pools of water. (Bullheads and black leeches being two examples.) Also on this day, a new grille was placed over the 4m deep Magic Mushroom Resurgence and the end of Weag's Bridge Resurgence was visited. Removal of some of the rubble, (bang debris), in the base of the terminal rift in this cave, allowed the parallel rift

reported in a report in the 1990's to be entered, but more rubble needs to be removed from the floor to allow further progress to be made. (It needs stacking higher up in the terminal rift.) Any takers?

In early July, the work to restore Riverside II to its former depth of 9m was finished. The way on heads upstream and is a narrow, slightly draughting rift which could be enlarged. It might link with the passage in Riverside Swallet mentioned above.

At the end of July we had a trip down Darfar Pot to the top of Pedigree Pot. (Due to lack of gear we couldn't go to the bottom.) The cave was mostly unchanged, except for the bigger silt banks making progress difficult in places like the Wind Tunnel. The expanding stemple forming the belay at the top of the third pitch (into Glory Chamber) was found to be loose. It could do with either tightening or replacing, maybe with an eco hanger, though I've no idea how long one would last when it would be submerged for several months of the year, every year. We laddered the first and third pitches and free-climbed the second pitch which slopes and has several ledges. The screwbolt belays on the first and second pitches appeared to be in good condition.

During September and October, ten large tackle bags of rubbish, (bones, plastic, glass and metal), were removed from Wetton Hill Far Cave. The rocks disturbed during this process were removed to the surface and used to build a dry stone wall around the entrance to, a) keep livestock away from the entrance and b) make the entrance less visible from the nearby public footpath. The cave is now 10m deep and ends in a tight vertical rift blocked by rubble with a slight, but steady draught blowing out and has a potential depth of around 190m. Deeper than the nearby Waterways Swallet, but probably with less water flowing down it, making the size of any passages at greater depth uncertain. However, it may be that as it goes deeper, other solution channels join it and form bigger passages.

Martin Milner, Darfar Potholing Club

Hidden Earth 2006

The 2006 conference took place on 22-24 September in the market town of Leek, which is about 12 miles south of Buxton, on the edge of the Derbyshire Peak District.

Here is a list of the talks, events and films that were on the programme:

Saturday

A film by Gavin Newman...maybe China, maybe not!
(Gavin Newman)

As Hard as Nails – Caving and Diving in the Urals
(Martyn Farr)

Belize 2006 (Alan Braybrooke)

Caving in the land of the Yi: HMG Tianxing 2006
(Fleur Loveridge)

Colourful cave collographs (Mel Lloyd)

CRO, its history and activities (Dave Gallivan)

Dachstein expedition (Various)

Dowsing for Caves (John Wilcock)

Electric Ferret (Nigel Atkins)

Explorations in Waterways Swallet 2004-06 (Andrew Foster)

Forest of Dean Roundup (Paul Taylor)

GSS 50 years on and still going.

Hongchiba 2006 (Phil Rowsell)

Houping 2006 (Anthony Day & Andrew Atkinson)

International Rescue Using Dogs (Phil Haigh)

Land of the Cedar – Caving in Lebanon (Emma Porter) Matienzo 2006 (Juan Corrin)

Mendip Roundup (Mark Helmore)

Mulu Caves 2005 (Mark Brown & Dick Willis)

Photoshop for Cave Photographers (Peter Collings-Wells)

Picture Postcards as a source of Speleo History (Dave Irwin)

The Caves of Nidderdale (Chris Fox)

The Lamprechtsofen-dropping into deepest, darkest Austria (Fay Hartley)

The White Mountains of Crete (Henry Rockliff, Robert Eavis & Jeff Wade)

Tian Xing 2006 (Imogen Furlong)

Tribute to Mike Wooding (Sid Perou)

Sunday

BCA's Youth and Development Campaign (Chris Jewell)

Cave Electronics Roundup (David Gibson)
Followed by CREG AGM (15 mins).

Cave exploration in Pakistan 1990-2006 (Simon Brooks)

Caving in the Abode of the Clouds 2006 (Simon Brooks)

Cong Caves and the prospects in the West (Martyn Farr)

Fight for Life – the Neil Moss Story (Dave Webb)

Filming Planet Earth – from OFD to Lechuguilla!
(Gavin Newman)

Hard decisions at Sleets Gill Cave (Sid Perou)

Guangxi 2006 (Ged Campion)

Laos – Caving in the land of the Mekong (Joerg Dreybrodt)

New Britain (Dave Gill)

Northern Roundup (Dave Ryall and Rick Stanton)

Painting Caves with Wax (Pete MacNab)

Parys Mine. Opening up and showing off... (Alan Kelly)

The Daren/Aggy Connection (Andy Rumming)

Totes Gebirge CUCC Expedition 2006 (Mark Shinwell)

Using your digital camera underground (Paul Fretwell)

DCRO Rescue Vehicle

Dowse Hole Cave Clean-up

Dowse Hole is located in the small village of Grindlow, near Great Hucklow. It's a swallet cave that takes a fair amount of water in flood conditions and is one of the feeders to the Bradwell catchment area. Conservation work has been highlighted as required following the English Nature SSSI Cave Monitoring Scheme.

The cave has been attacked by many digging teams over the decades; teams from the British Speleological Association, Rotherham CC, Pegasus, Orpheus and TSG have all spent time digging here. Remnants from these digging activities were very

evident in the cave, the generations of digging clutter included: paint tins, bullhead rails, old trucks, timber, pipes, metal, polythene, bags of cement, sheets of wood used to board the floor for dragging buckets, power cables, bang cables, ventilation pipes, digging tools, digging buckets and an old kitchen mangle used as a capstan winch.

On Saturday 17th June, a small team of EPC and TSG members joined forces to tidy up the rubbish and full a skip that had been hired. The team involved were John Beck, Dave Cowley, Bob Dearman, Keith Joule, Wayne Sheldon and Sam Townsend. Two

of the original diggers were involved so it was a trip down memory lane for them as they recognised various items from years gone by. Six hours of hard effort brought the mix of items to the surface and these were placed in a skip. The skip was paid for by English Nature as part of the SSSI Cave Monitoring Project that has been carried out over the last three years.

Cavers wanting access to this cave should visit Dowse Farm, Grindlow and ask for permission. Can people please park in a manner that doesn't obstruct the roads or entrances.

Wayne Sheldon

Fight for Life The Neil Moss Story

David Webb has produced a classic of its kind - the true story of the first major cave rescue in this country, which took place nearly 50 years ago in Peak Cavern, and about which rumours and half-truths still abound. He has spent years researching the story, interviewing cavers who took part (some of whom have since died) and who were able to explain their part in the epic struggle to rescue Neil Moss. A struggle which ultimately failed, leaving him entombed in the shaft at the request of his parents rather than risk any lives attempting to retrieve his body.

The story is told partly in interviews with some of those involved, in re-creations of the trip by modern cavers, in contemporary newspaper cuttings and in newsreel extracts; the sections in black and white emphasising the difference between today's well-equipped cavers with their colourful equipment and the drab, exhausted cavers of 1959 clothed

in ex-RAF "goon suits" and mud-soaked overalls. David's sympathetic interviewing of Bob Toogood: then a young caver, a member of the caving expedition which ended in Moss's death and who played his own part in the increasingly desperate rescue attempts, leaves an indelible impression of the growing realisation of the awful situation and the effect it had on those involved. Incredible that national appeals for help generated such interest and effort from so many people and organisations who were, on the face of it, unrelated to caving but were prepared to do everything they could. Sobering, too, is the comment from Dr. Hugh Kidd (who had to certify Moss's death without ever being able to see the body): that he believed even modern rescue techniques and improved technology would not have made any difference to the outcome.

The standard of the filming is better than many professionally produced documentary films seen

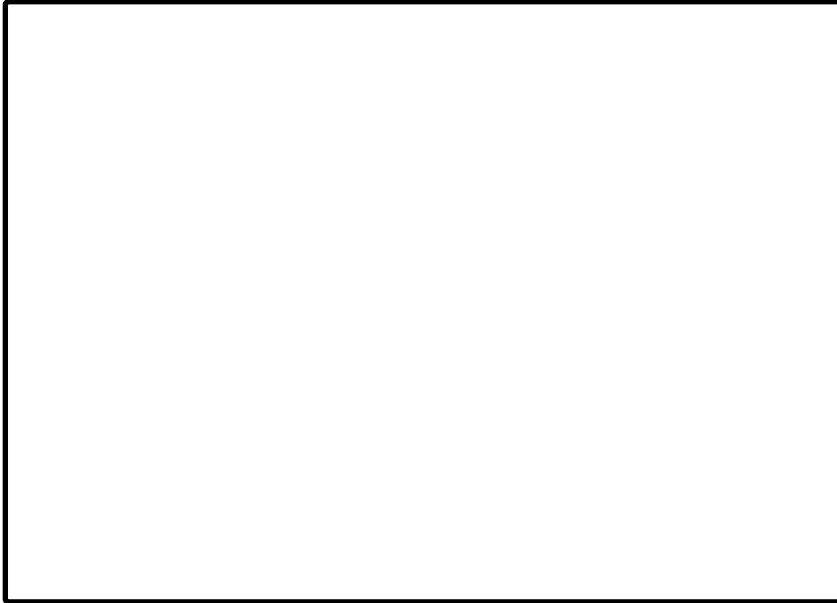
currently on TV and David's knowledge of his subject matter and his feel for the story have produced a film which deserves a wider audience than just the caving world. He is to be congratulated and, if you're a caver, you really should make an effort to see this!

50min. DVD produced by David Webb.

Copies of the DVD are available from D.Webb, 3 De Vere Gardens, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, NG5 4PH. (0115-840-1109)

Price £12.00 plus £2.50 p&p for 1st. 30 copies ordered direct from David; later it will be on sale in local caving shops.

Jenny Potts



see near feet, etc. and the pilot light (6 small LEDs around the main central one) is more than adequate. The sturdy and well-made headset is similar to an Oldhams although the cable enters in the middle instead of at the side - but this makes no difference. For those who have got used to a helmet-mounted battery, having a cable joining the headset and battery is a bit of a pain. Of course this is the same for any other caving lamp with a waist-mounted battery. However, the battery is very small and light - you forget it is there and it doesn't get in the way.

The lamp is straightforward in use with switching similar to Oldhams etc. The central position is "off", in one direction you have the main beam, in the opposite direction the pilot. One slight criticism is

that it is easy to accidentally move the switch to the "on" position, however, it may be possible to tighten up the switch to remedy this. The lamp has convenient "through the headset" charging and a nice lightweight charger. Also, the charger is "smart" so helping to avoid cell damage - practically plug in and forget with an LED letting you know when charging is complete. It requires a relatively long recharge time (8 - 12 hours) when compared to some other caving lamps - but this is not bad and the battery can of course be "topped up" at any stage of discharge without risking damage to the cells.

Overall an excellent light, and reasonably priced when compared to other caving lamps including charger.

The lamp currently retails for £130.00 including VAT, charger and postage and packing and is available to buy on-line directly from www.ledcavinglamp.co.uk.

Paul Lydon

Lighting is probably the caver's most important piece of equipment, and over the years many types have evolved, with electric lamps now well and truly leading the field for most purposes. With the advent of LED lighting, longevity and reliability have increased dramatically, but one of the main drawbacks has been the preference that many cavers have for a focused beam. More traditional lamps were often powered by heavy, uncomfortable waist-mounted battery packs. With NiCad batteries set to become redundant due to an European Parliament directive that dictates production of NiCad cells be discontinued for environmental reasons Li-ion (lithium-ion) batteries are fast becoming the power source of choice.

A new lamp from www.ledcavinglamp.co.uk addresses these issues and provides a reliable, lightweight lamp with a focused beam, small lightweight belt-mounted lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery pack, familiar through-the-headset charging and a 1W ultra-bright LED primary light source capable of up to 15 hours burn time.

The LED light provides a very bright spot (excellent length of time on main beam (~15 hours) when you consider the brightness) yet with adequate spill to

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THE DCA - WHAT WE DO AND HOW TO JOIN US DOING IT

The aim of Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA) is to protect the caves and promote good caving practice within the Peak District and surrounding areas. Membership is open to all clubs, individuals and outdoor activity providers with an interest in caves and caving or mine exploration. Check out the DCA website for further information. Membership enquiries to the Secretary (address above).

The Derbyshire Caver (the newsletter of the DCA) has been in uninterrupted publication for over thirty years and is of paramount value as a forum for cavers in Derbyshire. The Editor welcomes contributions from all cavers, whether DCA members or not. News, articles, etc. should be posted or emailed to him at the above address, or give him a ring.

The Derbyshire Caver is posted free to DCA members; non-members may subscribe by sending a cheque for £7 (payable to DCA) for four issues, to the Secretary/Treasurer (address above). Some back issues are also available for sale.

Current issues of The Derbyshire Caver are available from the following outlets:

Hitch'n'Hike, Bamford	The Old Smithy Teashop, Monyash
Peveril Outdoor & Travel, Castleton	Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock Bath