

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009
21st. February 2009



DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2008

**DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2008**

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 21 FEBRUARY 2009

OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2008

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Communications

This year I have issued 4 Information Circulars, Agendas for Meetings plus Minutes of 2008 AGM and all 3 Council Meetings together with the officers' reports. These are emailed where possible but some 30 or so still have to be posted to people whose email address we don't have and also to DCA Officers. Thanks to our webmaster, all paperwork and information are posted promptly on the DCA website.

I have also issued a number of other circulars by email where there is an urgent matter concerning safety or access and, in addition to these being put up on DCA's website, I have also placed them on the UKcaving.com forum, which is widely read and referred to by cavers.

The DCA website is being improved all the time and is an extremely useful resource - my thanks go to Paul Johnson who maintains it for us. Hosting is free, courtesy of BCA. (Note that Clubs can have cheap website hosting via BCA.)

Email is proving a tremendous advantage in allowing intercommunication between officers and members but it does have some disadvantages and is not 100% reliable - sometimes messages simply disappear into the ether or fail because someone has changed their email address and not told anyone. Basically, if you really want instant action - pick up the phone!

Membership

A few Individual Members have dropped out this year, but we did have one new member and another application is in hand, so we now have 2 Honorary Members, 50 Full Members and one Prospective Member. Of these, 20 are BCA Direct Individual Members and pay a discounted rate for their DCA membership. (This also has implications for our Administrative Grant from BCA as the amount is reduced in proportion to our non-BCA Individual Members.)

One Club Member dropped out last year following internal confusion but have asked to re-join this year and have already paid their BCA subscription, a prerequisite of being a DCA Club Member, so we are back up to 30. There still seems to be confusion over some Associate Members not receiving invoices from BCA, without which they are not able to pay their BCA subscription; hence I am keeping these organisations on our books as I am sure this will be sorted out in time.

I note from the latest BCA Club Membership list (sent to all regional secretaries) that there are some clubs who list DCA as a second (or even first) region of interest but who are not members of DCA. It seems worthwhile us making contact with these groups who cave regularly in the region to see if they would like formally to join DCA; after all, it won't cost them anything extra and we'll have a chance to seek their support when work needs doing and get our message across.

Cliffhanger

Cliffhanger 2008 was a great success and "marketing" opportunity for DCA and I am very grateful to Mark Cope, who masterminded it and to all those who helped make it a real success. We are being invited to have a presence again this year, the weekend is July 11/12 at Abbeydale in Sheffield. We now have equipment and material ready and funding is there to make it even more of a success this year. Volunteers are required and it would help immensely if a Club would take up the challenge - please make yourselves known to me if you are interested.

As always, my thanks to all the Officers, who put in a huge amount of work on behalf of DCA - they are a great bunch to work with and I really appreciate their help and support.

*Jenny Potts,
February 2009*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008

(The Annual Accounts appear on pp. 13-15.)

General Issues

As always, I print last year's figures alongside this year's so that a comparison can be made. The first thing to note is that, yet again, we have a surplus of income over expenditure. There are two main reasons for this:

1. The very substantial grant we now receive from BCA, which covers all our expenditure on Conservation and Access, and around 60% of our administrative expenditure (the reduction is because we do not have 100% BCA Direct Individual Membership); all our Training Workshops are covered by BCA grants; and BCA is now intending to fund expenditure on Eco-anchor installation & training for installers. BCA Administration and Conservation & Access grants, by agreement which all Regional Treasurers find easiest to manage, come one year in arrears, and the system agreed is now working well and catching up with monies owed.
2. The very substantial grant received from Natural England in respect of work done by our members in SSSIs. Our members give their time and very considerable effort for free and DCA reaps the rewards, which can be ploughed back into funding things which can't be funded in any other way.

As always, we have to thank many members who have made donations to DCA, including those who have donated their travel expenses (which are always recorded as there is no obligation to do so and some cannot afford it).

Additional Expenditure this Year, over and above the "usual"

1. **Cliffhanger:** The overall cost to DCA of the Cliffhanger 2008 event was £1221.08.
 - BCA refunded the cost of transporting the SpeleoOlympics from Mendip to Sheffield and back: £496.96.
 - We bought some items which are now "assets" to be used in the future (listed at the end of the Accounts and, because they are not entirely for "training" purposes", they are included under the "General Admin." expenditure heading): £411.08.
 - Travel for helpers and various smaller items came to £313 altogether, which appears under the Training heading.
2. **Conservation & Access Projects:**
 - **Bagshaw Cavern:** Total cost of all the work was £799.87. However, £393.55 of this was covered by a grant from Natural England and a £30.00 donation was received from an individual so the effective cost to DCA's own funds was £376.32. Thanks to all those involved in this major project.
 - **Manifold Valley:** A series of projects to improve access were carried out in the Manifold Valley under the direction of Martin Milner at a total cost of £217.63. Thanks to all those involved.

Natural England Contracts

The amount spent in any one year is dependent on when we are able to start work: so there is no expenditure for the 2008/9 Contract in 2008 but the majority of the 2007/8 expenditure occurred in 2008. The contracts theoretically run to the end of March each year but the official go ahead is often given only very late in the year, leaving the majority of the work to be done through the worst of the winter. It doesn't make it any easier for those working if they have to cope with wet and freezing weather and I'm not sure that this is fully appreciated by N.E. - although they have had staffing problems themselves this year, which hasn't helped.

I had rather hoped to be handing over to another Treasurer in the coming year but no-one has shown any inclination to step forward so I'll have to carry on for the time being - but I do want to start the process of passing the job on. Please, if you are interested, contact me and have a chat about it. I'm not an accountant by profession and it isn't rocket science but you do need to have a bit of a head for figures.

*Jenny Potts
February 2009*

CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

SSSI Matters and Cave Conservation Monitoring

Many of you will be aware that it is now 6 years since the first round of SSSI monitoring was completed – putting us well ahead of the rest of the country and in 2004 winning for DCA an award of £1000.

In June of 2008 I visited NE offices and worked with Jo Poll to collate all the caves/mines that needed to be re-recorded. Some areas, such as Manifold and Stoney Middleton had already been almost fully completed, and Castleton had got off to a good start, and we hoped to be able to complete a good proportion of them all before the year-end. Unfortunately Jo was taken ill shortly after this meeting and circulation of the list together with our six-monthly Monitoring meetings had to be put on hold.

I would still ask for your support in completing monitoring forms at the time of your normal club or individual caving trip, and I am pleased to say that a steady trickle is still coming in – many thanks to those who have taken the trouble to fill them in. You will find blank forms and surveys at the SSSI Cave Monitoring website www.peakcavemonitoring.org.uk/

Jo has put a great deal of effort into caving matters and we miss her input greatly. Audra Hurst is managing our affairs for the time being (alongside all her own work) and I would ask those affected to be patient during this difficult time for all of us. We send Jo our very best wishes.

On a brighter note the progress we have made in Derbyshire is still held up as the “gold standard” by other regions throughout the country, and we now have all our SSSI areas covered by co-ordinators. The list is reproduced below.

SSSI area representatives. (There are six major SSSI areas in our region and the following have volunteered to act as co-ordinators for the scheme. They are asked to report back to the meetings on the general condition of sites in their “patch” and to encourage the completion of Cave Monitoring Forms for return to Natural England via myself).

Castleton SSSI: Wayne Sheldon and Ann Soulsby; **Stoney Middleton SSSI:** Mark Cope and Frank Beasley; **Bradwell Dale and Bagshawe Cavern SSSI:** Toni Murphy and Jules Barrett; **Masson Hill SSSI:** Christine Wilson and John Barnatt; **Hamps / Manifold Valleys SSSI & Webmaster:** Martin Milner; **Lathkilldale SSSI:** Boyd Potts and Paul Lydon; **Scheme Collator and DCA/NE Link:** Dave Webb.

In November Andrew Hinde - my opposite number in Yorkshire with responsibility for the joint project between Natural England and CNCC, paid me a visit and we spent the day going through the methods we used here to get going using area co-ordinators and simplified forms. I am pleased to say that their scheme is now up and running although they have a much greater number of sites to monitor. I was also proud to show Andy our website and CNCC/NE were so impressed at the way it was set up and run that they asked Martin to set up a similar one for Northern Caves which he has now done. <http://www.northerncavemonitoring.org.uk/>

Access and Digs in SSSIs

In July I was contacted by Paul Mortimer of the South Peak National Trust Estate regarding an unauthorised digging incident in a cave at Beeston Tor, and a copy of my reply is available on request.

The dig was in a cave at Beeston Tor in the Manifold Valley, which is both in a biological SSSI and on land owned by the National Trust. Neither the NT as landowner nor Natural England (SSSI) were contacted for permission to carry out such activities. The site is included in the NT Monuments Register and the dig in the floor of the cave revealed human bones of archaeological value, which were taken to Derby Museum who then informed the NT. The result was potentially very serious to caver-landowner relations, and has cost the NT £8000 to reclaim material discarded during the dig and restore the site generally.

Two issues arise from this episode The first is dealt with in a statement from the BCA, published in DCA Circular No. 2008/4, reminding cavers that landowners have the right to grant or withhold access and to check the access agreement in operation for a particular cave; this applies equally to

those wishing to start a new dig or reopen an old one. (Be aware that the right to grant access may not always extend to the tenant farmer).

The second has been widely publicised in a leaflet produced jointly by DCA and Natural England titled "Do You Dig Caves" and concerns digging on land which is designated an SSSI and which the landowner has a statutory duty to protect. If you wish to dig for new cave or modify an existing cave entrance within the boundaries of an SSSI, you should ask Natural England first who will then contact the landowner and obtain consent for the work on your behalf (assuming the dig will not cause damage to any special features). The procedure is usually very quick and painless and *is not new or complicated* and many digs in our region have gone through it, including the Titan dig. To my knowledge none have been refused.

The consequences for future access to caves/mines on land owned by a landowner who was discovered to have allowed a dig in an SSSI which had not been consented to by NE could be disastrous for us all.

The law applies also to work underground if it is likely to destroy features for which the cave has been listed, and these cave specific features, plus boundary maps for all SSSIs, are reproduced on the Cave Conservation Monitoring site.

For help or advice on digs and/or work in SSSIs please contact myself or Wayne Sheldon, and I should be grateful if clubs in our region could make their membership aware of the correct procedures.

Adopt-a-Cave

Following an unfortunate misunderstanding between DCA and Chris Howes, the rightful owner of the scheme, we have now established a revised and updated local list, which Chris has published in a recent copy of Descent (No.203 pp 28-29). I have volunteered to act as a local agent for individuals or clubs wishing to join the scheme - all you need to do is drop me a line and I will do the rest.

<u>CAVE</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>CAVE</u>	<u>CLUB</u>
<i>Bagshawe Cavern</i>	Eldon PC	<i>Lathkill Head Cave</i>	Cave & Crag PC
<i>Brightgate Cave</i>	Masson caving Group.	<i>Maskhill Mine</i>	Eldon PC
<i>Critchlow Cave</i>	Cave & Crag CC	<i>Oxlow Cavern</i>	Eldon PC
<i>Darfar Pot</i>	Darfar PC	<i>P8</i>	Rubber Duck CC
<i>Eldon Hole</i>	Eldon PC	<i>Peak Cavern</i>	TSG
<i>Etches Cave (Upper Dove)</i>	Iain Barker	<i>Redhurst Swallet</i>	Darfar PC
<i>Giant's Hole</i>	Eldon PC	<i>Riverside Swallet</i>	Darfar PC
<i>Great Masson Cavern</i>	Masson Caving Group	<i>Rowter Hole</i>	Sheffield USS
<i>Holme Bank Chert Mine</i>	Stanley Head OCC	<i>Tearsall Pipe Caverns No 2</i>	Masson Caving Group
<i>Knotlow/Hillocks Complex</i>	Orpheus CC	<i>Water Icicle Close cavern</i>	Orpheus CC
<i>Ladyside Pot</i>	Darfar PC		

Paper Pulp/Hazard Mine/Ink Sump.

In May/June of 2008 it was brought to my attention that large quantities of paper pulp (grey) and reservoir filtrate (reddy-brown) were being brought onto the 1.5 hectares of the once quarried Hazard Mine area. Many of you will remember a similar accumulation further west during 1999/2002, which was eventually spread over the land resulting in many passages in Peak Cavern being very badly polluted with a slimy orange film which seriously harmed the resident invertebrate population in the streams of Peak Cavern.

This time the contractors undertaking the spreading had been given stricter rules to follow which were being enforced to reduce percolation into the ground water. Also the iron concentration of the filtrate was very much lower than the 1999/2000 stuff which accounted for the orange colour. The plan assumed that when spread both of the materials would combine with the small amount of topsoil and eventually produce a stable compound which would not leach into system, especially when grassed over.

See Appendix for update to this situation.

UCF Meetings.

These six-monthly meetings continue to thrive and are well attended. These are official DCA meetings (chaired by myself) and copies of minutes are kept and can be made available for scrutiny at any time. The meetings deal with all matters of concern to cavers and stakeholders in our underground environment, and new contributors are always welcome.

Bat Training. A recent spin-off from the October meeting was the organising of practical bat training exercises by Jim Alder who is an experienced caver and a member of the Derbyshire Bat Group. Jim has set up a number of successful bat training exercises for cavers, and I have attended several and can confirm the very useful work that he is doing to encourage the reporting of bat sightings and to foster trust between our respective activities and overlapping interests.

Cave/Mine Archaeology. Similar work is being done by English Heritage to encourage cavers to work with them on reporting digs in cave entrances that may contain valuable archaeological material. I am not sure at this stage how this will work but I have worked with them on the draft of a leaflet which will list contacts and likely areas where care is especially important, and this will be published shortly. Martin Milner is now appointed by the NT as a cave-ranger for the Manifold Valley so this could help avoid future misunderstandings there.

Cliffhanger. I attended this two day event with Boyd and Jenny and others to help promote the work of the DCA and to encourage youngsters to enjoy the excitement and health benefits that caving can offer, amply demonstrated by the SpeleoOlympics course and the demanding 10m electron ladder climb.

*Dave Webb,
February 2009*

Appendix to Annual report UPDATE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

1. Paper Pulp/Hazard Mine/Ink Sump

In November 2008 I wrote to Peak divers asking them to report any changes in water quality, which led to reports from divers and cavers of slippery passage floors and nasty looking slime deposits in Ink Sump: there is a proven water connection between Hazard/Hollandtwine and Ink Sump.

I also wrote to the Environment Agency, Peak Park and Natural England and I have to say that, considering the exceptionally wet weather, action was very prompt and some measures have already been taken to reduce the inflow of the material into open cavities.

Unfortunately the area being spread is outside the SSSI so at this stage NE cannot be involved. However everyone is doing their best and I am working with John Gunn, PDNPA the EA and cave divers in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

2. Youd's Level.

A couple of years ago I worked with the EA who brought in Severn Trent to unblock overflowing sewage drains that were leaking into Youd's Level where it goes under the A6.

This cleared the problem temporarily but it returned with a vengeance early this year, but with the added presence of rats gambolling among the other "solids".

I contacted the EA and they got straight onto it and have once again involved the water authority, who have now concreted up two broken drains. Dave Ottewell (EA) and myself are to go down in the near future to check out the results.

3. Festival of Outdoor Learning. March 2009

DCA have agreed to have a presence at this annual event sponsored by PICA and we are mounting display stands and material on the conservation work we do – with especial mention of the restoration work at Bagshawe Cavern. Festival workshops on a variety of outdoor topics will be attended by centres from all over the country, some of whom may know very little about caving, conservation, and the work of the DCA.

*Dave Webb,
Feb 2009*

ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Overall yet another quiet year. This proves to me that we are doing the job properly!

A few specifics.

Giants Hole

The box keeps getting robbed but if Mr Baldacci insists on the current method of payment we can do little about it.

Holme Bank Chert Mine

The locks keep getting smashed on a regular basis. I keep replacing them but will think up a bullet-proof system in time.

Garden Path

Dave Webb, Pete Mellors and myself streamlined the access red-tape which seemed to be deterring applicants; this seems to have worked as I am processing two applications which have arrived within the last month (the first in years).

Lathkill Upper Entrance, Rookery Mine etc.

All the Chatsworth sites were inspected and reported with little fuss. Rookery Mine has seen slightly increased activity while Lathkill Upper Entrance is about the same as usual.

Okeover/Waterways Swallet.

I was a bit concerned to discover that the lid, which Pete Mellors and myself had offered fitted to this site at a meeting with the estate manager a few years ago, had not materialised. However, if I have it right the Orpheus will be taking on this task in the near future.

Many thanks to all the other officers who have assisted me this year, Pete Mellors and Dave Webb in particular.

*Iain Barker,
February 2009*

LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Liability Insurance

A meeting was held with the Broker early in the year to discuss concerns over areas of perceived shortfall in the BCA liability cover. These concerns were eventually sorted out satisfactorily and I understand Zurich has agreed to endorse the Policy wording to make clear that Officers, Trustees and Volunteers are all covered. Zurich also agreed to retain the wording of the Confirmation of Cover document which it had wanted to amend so as to replace specific reference to landowners and other parties to access agreements with a standard note on Indemnity of Principals. The Indemnity limit for 2009 stays at £2M.

Garden Path

Following the introduction of a smoother access procedure and clearer interpretation of scientific research, applications to visit the site have picked up slowly but encouragingly during the year. The Licence granting access here (and also to Lathkill Upper Entrance) expires this March and Chatsworth have agreed to renew on the same terms for a further 3 years. I am grateful to Iain Barker for arranging an inspection and updating his report on the state of the site.

Waterways Swallet

Doubts still persist, I understand, over whether the promised grille has been fitted to the entrance or not. The landowner was assured some time ago that this work would be done. Under the terms of its annual access agreement with Okeover Estates DCA is expected to keep the entrance secured against livestock and unauthorised entry. DCA also indemnifies Okeover against costs incurred from any action brought as a result of caving at the site.

Thorswood & Castern Wood Reserves

I am not aware of any significant new developments here since negotiations with Staffs Wildlife Trust broke down in 2007. The Trust, I believe, offers covers the benefit of its own £5M indemnity cover in exchange for agreed remedial work on the mine entrances that would otherwise pose a danger to other visitors to the Reserves or to the heritage value of the sites. Broader access is not likely to be forthcoming till DCA agrees to meet the Trust's £5M indemnity requirement.

Re-election to Office

As last year, if other persons aspire to this post, I am prepared to step down. Otherwise I am happy to put my experience and expertise, such as it is, along with my forgetfulness and slow work rate, at DCA's disposal for another year.

*Peter Mellors,
February 2009*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

The Rigging Guide topo diagrams and Key have been done and just need to be placed on pages in the Access Guide.

Material and contributions for "The Derbyshire Caver" seems to be diminishing with time so there may be a while yet before a new Issue can be produced.

*Paul Lydon,
February 2009*

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

I was co-opted to the post of Equipment Officer at the beginning of November 2008.

Nickergrove Mine

Early in 2008 the first two pitches of the Nickergrove Through Trip (internal shaft and short pitch in the level) in Stoney Middleton were equipped with eco anchors. In September 2008 two more eco anchors were installed at the top of the final handline climb. These anchors had been requested and paid for by the Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation (PICA).

Oxlow Short Pitch into East Chamber

A report was received in October 2008 of a bolt pulling out of a Spit at the head of the short pitch down to the bottom of Oxlow's East Chamber. In December 2008 three eco anchors were installed at the head of the pitch (one back-up and two anchors for a Y-hang). A 17m rope is required.

Jug Holes

At the request of PICA three eco anchors were installed in December 2008 to protect a bad step in Jug Holes on Masson Hill. Whilst experienced cavers undoubtedly do not need these anchors they will allow novices to be protected where necessary. Traveling through Jug Holes from the adit entrance to the upper entrance two eco anchors in the roof mark the start of the traverse. There is another anchor on the far side of the step and the rope can be continued to a natural anchor. A 20m rope is required.

James Hall's Over Engine Mine - Bitch Pitch

Jenny Potts received an email from a member of SUSS early in February 09 to report that material had fallen down Bitch Pitch from the pitch head on their visit the weekend before. The email suggested that an additional eco anchor may be needed to safeguard the approach to the pitch head. A week later Jenny and I received another email informing us that a compression anchor had been installed in the Cartgate approx. 2 or 3 metres before the first eco anchor. Martyn Grayson and I visited JH on Tuesday 17th February. The following statement has been distributed via the usual channels:

The area around the top of Bitch Pitch in James Halls' Over Engine Mine (J.H.) has deteriorated significantly during February 2009. The angle iron and rock platform that used to aid progress to the Y-hang at the end has completely gone. Some of the rocks and the 6ft lengths of angle iron are sitting on the floor further back down the Cartgate. Reaching the first P-bolt of the traverse is more difficult than it used to be. Someone has installed a compression anchor (hanger currently in-situ) two or three metres back down the Cartgate to protect the move to the first P-bolt. This anchor has not been installed by DCA; use at your own risk. The wooden stemples that the angle iron and rocks sat on are still in place and can be used to make progress to the Y-hang at the end. Below these stemples is a fairly loose slope of wet mud and small rocks. Anything that falls down/off this slope will roll straight down the line of the ropes below. Care needed! Work is being planned to return the pitch head to its previous state and stop the slope below deteriorating.

Jules Barrett, DCA, 18/02/2009

When the work on the platform is finished two more eco anchors MAY be needed to protect the traverse to the pitch head. Until the work is done on the platform we won't know whether they are necessary. I would like to obtain approval for these two eco anchors at the AGM in case they are needed.

Knotlow – Chain Passage/210'

A report was received that two anchors were loose in Knotlow's 210' shaft. These anchors can be used by cavers descending the 210' to speed up progress on the ropes and can also be used to rig from Chain Passage down into the bottom of Waterfall Chamber. A visit by members of the Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club identified that these anchors are not in fact eco anchors but are one compression and one resin anchor which were installed by persons unknown a long time ago. A little work was done to tighten up the nut holding the hanger in place on the compression anchor. I don't propose to do anything further about this.

Giants Hole - Earth Leakage

Members of the Eldon Pothole Club have dug back into the Earth Leakage Trip chamber at the end of Ghost Rift. More general access may be sought to the Earth Leakage Chamber in the future as it makes a nice extension to the Round Trip. Currently there is a fixed rope that leads up from the area at the end of the Giants Windpipe to Ghost Rift. This fixed rope isn't a long term solution. I would like permission to install four eco anchors (two at the top and two at the bottom of the pitch) and a large stainless steel ring to allow parties to rig their own ropes here.

Garden Path

Ralph Johnson sent a detailed report to Iain Barker regarding some additional eco anchors in Garden Path to replace Spits and improve the rigging. At some stage in the next six months I will try to visit the Garden Path and will report at a future meeting.

Anchor Records

DCA anchor records are up-to-date.

Thanks to the following cavers for their help with various equipment work: Alan and Alison, Brentnall, Ralph Johnson, Mark Harrison, Sam Pemberton, Colum Walsh, James Wood.

*Jules Barrett,
February 2009*

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

I have been working overtime getting courses kicked off again. Thanks to everyone in DCA for your support over the last couple of years. I will now return the favour by giving you my time and enthusiasm again! I will be busy caving for the next 6 months and even have another Mallorca trip on in August!

DCA SRT UNDERGROUND MASTERCLASS

This is going to be re scheduled as snow got in the way last time! Please call for details.

CAVING CLUB TRAINING SCHEME

Sunday February 15th 2009. This was run last week end and was great fun ‘training the trainers’. Thanks to those who came and got involved, you know who you are....

DCA/BCA CAVERS WORKSHOP 2009

This has been put back into April as it clashed with the AGTM and the outdoors show! Let’s get as many to this as we can, put the word about and lets have some fun.

Cave Rescue, Cave Instructor, SRT, Advanced SRT, Ladders Lines Abseiling with Groups & Self Rescue, Cave Video, Mines History, Cave Formation Development & Conservation, First Aid

Always a great week end in the caving calendar and a brilliant opportunity to catch up with caving trends, techniques and equipment. How many Petzl Tikka XP’s did I lose this year! Why not get a few friends together and book onto a session as a group? Usual stuff on offer from rope work, SRT introduction, SRT rigging, rescue etc.

Cheap Gear. If you have any unwanted caving related items to get shut of, please bring them along as we can flog them off for cash – paid directly to you! Make sure that you bring a ‘wad’ of cash with you if you intend to snap up a bargain or two!

Dates: **Saturday & Sunday April 18th & 19th 2009 - £10 per person**

BCA Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop

This Course is available only to SRT proficient people and it has limited places so please book early. I have applied for a grant for this so it could be a cheapie for you. First come first served!

Dates: - **April 11th & 12th 2009 - £40 per person**

SRT TRAINING COURSE

There is a 2 day SRT training course for those who may not be able to get training through their clubs. What a great way to kick off your 2009 vertical caving year!

Date: **Saturday & Sunday May 2nd & 3rd 2009**

LEVEL 2 CAVE LEADERS AND CIC CANDIDATES WANTED NOW

I am still in need of CIC candidates asap! Phone for details..... I can provide all gear, transport, enthusiasm and accommodation (with a hot tub!).

*Nigel Atkins,
February 2009*

PLANNING LIAISON OFFICER’S REPORT

Not a great deal to report for 2008.

Tearsall Quarry Extension Application for Fluorspar Extraction – Glebe Mines

The original planning application was withdrawn by Glebe Mines and a revised application submitted to Peak Park in the spring of last year. Initially, it looked likely that the Peak Park would be refusing permission but the latest we hear is that they are now considering reversing this as they are being offered an assurance by Glebe Mines not to take up mineral extraction rights on Longstone Edge for at least four years if they are given permission at Tearsall. The planners see the priority to try to save Longstone over Tearsall. Having examined the evidence available, DCA decided not to formally object to the development proposals as there unlikely to be any impact on known caves in the area, e.g. Brightgate Cave and the principle mines such as Tearsall Pipe Caverns. Reports / surveys of the local shafts in the area didn’t show up any potential systems that might be lost. PDMHS had also looked into the matter and made their own representations on the application. DCA made no direct representation to the Planning Board on the current application. DCA’s position is being kept

under review in case new evidence comes to light. No final decision has yet been taken by the Peak Park to my knowledge.

Derby and Derbyshire – Aggregate Minerals & Waste Site Allocations DPD

DCA commented on DCC's aggregate mineral policy and allocation sites back in 2006/2007 during the draft document consultation stage prior to their progression to public examination. In 2008 DCC had the draft submission documents reviewed and were advised not to continue with the minerals and waste development plan documents until such time as they had in place suitable Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPDs. DCC has heeded the advice and halted progression of their draft submission DPDs and are focusing on producing their Core Strategies. They have however published in December 2008 two statements for Applicants preparing planning applications for minerals development, one of which deals with aggregate minerals including limestone extraction from Derbyshire (excluding the Peak Park). These statements draw on the findings of the DCC's Site Allocations DPD which the review found were technically sound.

Basically Derbyshire has huge reserves of crushed rock already with permissions and therefore the only applications that DCC are likely to consider for new sites or extensions to existing sites for limestone extraction will be tied up with deals to rescind existing permissions on sites which they regard as being more environmentally sensitive and worthy of preserving over other sites which may be more acceptable to them. Tearsall Quarry extension being traded off against working Longstone Edge is the sort of horse trading that we are likely to see more of over the coming years. DCA will need to keep vigilant to ensure that important caving sites are not put at risk from planners 'deals' with developers.

*Chris Broome
18 Feb '09*

PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT

Note

Owing to pressure of work, Projects Officer Martyn Grayson did not have time to produce a separate report for the AGM – so his report to the November 2008 Council Meeting is included here as it gives a very complete picture of the work accomplished during the year.

Rowter Hole, new lid: All materials were ready. Time is now needed to do the work.

Bagshawe Cavern: A skip would need to be hired to take away all the rubbish removed from Bagshawe and DCA would fund this cost.

Long Rake Carbon Monoxide Problem: Investigations have continued on the causes of the CO in Long Rake. There was no guarantee the situation would not recur and the Mine should be regarded as closed for all access for the foreseeable future. There would need to be a warning notice on the lid and this would be publicised nationally.

Carleswark: Work at Carleswark was in hand.

Big Dig: MG will be checking to see what is required.

Natural England Contract for 2008-09: First work planned is a clean-up of the scrap metal and tyres dumped in the shaft adjacent to Gautries Hole. Volunteers for the work will be needed.

Slop Moll: One side wall has been rebuilt but the other side now needs attention.

Paper Pulp in Peak Cavern: Rob Eavis has reported contamination of the streamway in Peak Cavern, believed to be from paper pulp which had been allowed to be dumped on land close to Hazard Mine. MG and DW will check.

Water Icicle: There is still a search on for a suitable shaft to open to improve ventilation in the mine to flush out the pockets of CO₂ which appear occasionally. Noted that the gas seems to be coming into the mine from the NW, the Derby Lane end.

Reporting of problems in the Peak District: It was noted that many problems relating to Peak District caves are being reported on the UKcaving website forum instead of being reported to DCA. This sometimes elicits inaccurate or misleading comments from those who do not know the situation, creates misunderstandings and delays handling of the problem. JP, MG and PL are monitoring the website but there is much rubbish and ill-informed comment to wade through.

*Martyn Grayson,
November 2008*

CAVES OF THE PEAK DISTRICT - PROGRESS REPORT

The new edition of COPD has been pretty much ready for a while now. John Beck and myself are currently in the process of selecting and discarding potential publishers. After discussion with various authors and booksellers it was decided against self-publishing and we will be chasing a more traditional deal.

I personally think that this will be a flagship publication and something that DCA will be proud of for a few years to come. There, I've pushed my boat out!

Iain Barker

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2008***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)*

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Previous Year (2007)	
General admin. / Information Services, etc.			
Travel	25.60	99.40	
Post	74.42	176.39	
Phone / Email	6.19	2.86	
Materials, printing, copying, etc.	647.25	212.14	
	753.46		490.79
Conservation and Access, etc.			
Travel	173.20	198.00	
Post / phone / email / paperwork	20.71	22.20	
Materials	935.92	349.44	
	1,129.83		569.64
Cave Conservation Plans / Underground Cons. Forum			
Travel	75.20	106.00	
Post / phone / email / paperwork	12.18	6.59	
Materials	0.00	0.00	
	87.38		112.59
Equipment, Anchor Installation, etc.			
Travel	55.20	19.20	
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00	
Materials	0.00	25.31	
	55.20		44.51
Publications: Newsletter, Conservation Audits, Handbook, etc.			
Newsletter	399.21	125.16	
Handbook, Caves of the Peak District	0.00	26.44	
Printing, postage, etc. Conservation Audits	147.23	212.13	
	546.44		363.73
Training, PICA Liaison, etc.			
Travel	671.60	10.80	
Post / phone / email / paperwork	24.65	20.79	
Training Events, instruction, etc.	816.15	580.00	
	1,512.40		611.59
SSSI Conservation work for English Nature / Natural England			
Travel / communications / materials 2007/8 contract	1,136.01		
Travel / communications / materials 2008/9 contract	0.00		
	1,136.01		979.17
Cave Discovery Fund Grants Paid Out	0.00		0.00
Donations to other organisations, causes, etc.	0.00		100.00
Refund Errors	0.00		0.00
	-----		-----
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	5,220.72		3,272.02
	=====		=====

(Accounts: Page 1 of 3)

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2008***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)*

<u>INCOME</u>		Previous Year (2007)
Subscriptions & Entry Fees, (Individual Members only)	476.00	479.00
Publications Sales		
Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver"	142.50	89.40
Handbook	0.00	0.00
Masson Conservation Audit	13.00	27.40
Jug Holes Information Pack	49.40	68.10
Cumberland/Wapping Conservation Audit	54.00	11.90
Manifold/Hamps Conservation Audit	0.00	158.00
	258.90	354.80
Donations from Members		
To General Fund	105.60	380.40
To Cave Discovery Fund	0.00	0.00
To Cave Conservation Emergency Fund, etc.	120.00	0.00
	225.60	380.40
BCA Grants		
Core Funding (Admin. and Cons. Access.)	1,037.61	387.21
Training	1,266.96	300.00
	2,304.57	687.21
Awards & Grants by Non-Caving Organisations		
English Nature / Natural England SSSI projects 2007/8	2,478.59	2,051.01
English Nature / Natural England SSSI projects 2008/9	0.00	
Other	0.00	0.00
	2,478.59	
Caver Training Course Fees	340.00	300.00
Refreshments at Meetings	29.40	73.84
	-----	-----
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	6,113.06	4,326.26
	=====	=====
Less: TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,220.72	3,272.02
<u>Excess Income over Expenditure</u>	892.34	1,054.24

(Accounts: Page 2 of 3)

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2008***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)***Balances brought forward to 1 January 2008****Previous Year (2007)**

Bank	Current Account	290.47	357.65
	Deposit Account	6,903.10	5,736.57
Cash in Hand	Secretary	12.99	16.36
	Projects Officer	511.90	425.33
		-----	-----
		7,718.46	6,535.91
Add excess income		892.34	1,054.24
Add interest on Deposit Account		117.61	128.31
		-----	-----
Balance to Carry Forward at 31 December 2008		8,728.41	7,718.46
		=====	=====

Balances Brought Forward to 1 January 2009

Bank	Current Account	436.54	290.47
	Deposit Account	8,303.87	6,903.10
Cash in Hand	Owed to Secretary	-12.00	12.99
	Projects Officer	0.00	511.90
		-----	-----
		8,728.41	7,718.46
		=====	=====

Note that the balance carried forward includes:

Held for the Cave Discovery Fund	486.77	486.77
Held for the DCA Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	932.59	932.40

ASSETS**Assets Held** (Value Written down by 20% p.a.)

Materials/Equipment:

DCA Banner (Pur. 2008)	138.30	
DCA Laminated notices (Pur. 2008)	58.80	
DCA Stand shelter etc. (Pur. 2008)	213.98	
Belle Cement Mixer & Honda Engine (Pur. 1997)	0.00	0.00
Ingersoll Rand Rotary Compressed Air Drill (Don. 1998)	0.00	0.00

Publications:

Cave Conservation Publns. for sale (Nom. Val. at Tr. Pr.)	222.00	280.00	280.00
	633.08		

NOTE: Accounts presented subject to inspection/audit**J.E.Potts
20 Feb. 2008**

