

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010
13th. February 2010



DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2009

**DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2009**

CONTENTS

| Page | Item |
|------|---|
| 3 | Secretary's Report for 2009 |
| 4 | Treasurer's Report for 2009 |
| 5 | Conservation Officer's Annual Report 2009 - 2010 |
| 6 | Assistant Conservation Officer's Report February 2010 |
| 7 | Access Officer's Report for 2009 |
| 7 | Legal & Insurance Officer's Report for 2009 |
| 8 | Equipment Officer's Report |
| 8 | DCA Training Officer's Report |
| 10 | Cave Registry Secretary's Report |
| 11 | DCA Council Representative's Report |
| 12 | DCA Annual Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2009 |

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 13 FEBRUARY 2010

OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2009

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2009

Communications

As last year, I have issued 4 Information Circulars, Agendas for Meetings plus Minutes of the 2009 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.

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.

In October, as no DCA Newsletters had been sent out so far during the year, I took the step of buying at a reduced rate from BCRA all their remaining 110 copies of BCRA Cave Studies Series, No. 3: "Caves & Karst of the Peak District" (Gunn & Ford, 1990), which is now out of print. I then posted these out to DCA members with Information Circular 2009/3 and reminded members that a new and updated version is due out soon.

The DCA website is being improved all the time and is an extremely useful resource as all paperwork and information are posted promptly - 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 has definite advantages in allowing intercommunication between officers and members but it is not 100% reliable - sometimes messages simply disappear into the ether; fail because someone has changed their email address and not told anyone or else someone's system has developed a fault. Basically, if you really want instant action - pick up the phone!

Membership

3 Individual Members dropped out in 2009, but we gained one new member and another application is in hand, so we now have 2 Honorary Members, 47 Full Members and one Prospective Member. Of these, 20 are BCA Direct Individual Members and pay a discounted rate for their DCA membership. (Our Administrative Grant from BCA is reduced in proportion to our non-BCA Individual Members.)

One Member Club dropped out last year but a new club joined, so we still have 30 club members. There still seems to be confusion over some Associate Members and only 10 are now BCA members, which is a requirement of DCA Associate Membership; I continue to try to ensure they do remain in membership of BCA, after all, BCA is funding DCA.

The most recent BCA Club Membership list (sent to all regional secretaries) indicates that there are some clubs who list DCA as a second (or even first) region of interest but who are not members of DCA. I have yet to make contact with these groups who cave regularly in the region to see if they would like formally to join DCA; this will be a target for the coming year.

Cliffhanger

Cliffhanger 2009 was, sadly, something of a let-down this year as volunteers didn't make themselves known in good time and Saturday's activities had to be cancelled. Volunteers are required to man a DCA stand at Cliffhanger 2010 on 3/4 July and we also need a volunteer organiser and a construction team beforehand to build an "artificial cave".

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.

I am prepared to stand again as Secretary for the coming year, if you'll have me

*Jenny Potts,
February 2010*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2009

I had to apologise that the accounts presented to the AGM were "Provisional" as it had not been possible to finalise them as I would have wished. An unforeseen result of the 2005 change to "calendar year", instead of "year ending 30th. September" for accounts, means it is difficult to get the accounts completed in time for a February AGM. The 2010 AGM is 10 days earlier in February than previous years, giving only 6 weeks after the financial year-end, and the crucial bank statements were not due arrive until some time the following week. I asked the Meeting's indulgence in considering these accounts and I undertook to present the finalised accounts for approval at the Council Meeting in the summer. The accounts presented in this Annual Report have now been finalised.

There have been other problems this year: very late presentation of bills, from 2008 well into 2009 and from 2009 until well into 2010. Additionally, some requests for payment were simply not sent in good time; in other cases invoices have been emailed as attachments and became "lost", so the Treasurer knew nothing of them. It is essential that those emailing/posting invoices ensure that they receive acknowledgment of receipt and promise of payment from the Treasurer; if this does not happen within a week, it should be followed up by a phone call or letter.

Natural England SSSI conservation projects are always agreed late in the year, so that DCA is required to spend from its own funds on servicing these projects, with the payment from Natural England not arriving until several months into the following year. This means that we have to ensure that we have sufficient, reasonably accessible, funds in hand to subsidise this system to the tune of several thousands of £££s each year. Thankfully, we are in a position to do this by switching funds quickly between current and deposit accounts, but it does mean that we are limited in how we can best place our funds to achieve maximum return on savings.

Expenditure

Variations from year to year on **administration** are mainly due to bulk buying of stamps and stationery items and when this stock runs out, and whether or not we post out a DCA Newsletter. The 2009 figures are actually close to the 2007 figures. Variations from year to year on **conservation and access and cave conservation plans** expenditure, (outwith SSSI conservation work) are simply a reflection of the type of work carried out and the materials required; again, the 2007 figure are close to the 2009 figures. Similarly, expenditure on **publications** depends year on year how many Newsletters are produced and how many Cave Conservation audits are printed for sale. **Training** expenditure was very high in 2008, the 2009 figure is much closer to that for 2007.

Income

Overall **publications** income has been relatively static for the last 2 years, with variations in the actual publications sold. We have received no **training** grants from BCA this year, although I believe DCA may have run courses eligible for grants. Our BCA **general administration/conservation/access grant** has risen this year, but bear in mind this is based on DCA's 2008 expenditure; these grants are paid a year in arrears, as previously agreed by the BCA and regional council Treasurers.

Balances

The BCA grant was paid into DCA's current account on 23 Dec. 2009, so not moved to the deposit account until the new year, though I normally try to maintain the current account with just a few hundred £££s in it to cover immediate expenditure. Note that we are £2000 better off at the end of 2009 than we were at the end of 2008 - this is due in the main to the extraordinary efforts of those who put in many hours of hard work, free of charge, on behalf of all cavers, attracting funding/grants from Natural England and BCA. This puts DCA in an excellent position to fund other things for which grants are not available - notably the production of "Caves of the Peak District", on which we have already agreed to spend up to £5000 if required.

Finally

I am willing to continue for one last year as DCA Treasurer; I do not intend to stand for re-election in 2011. I hope to be able to work with my replacement ready for next year.

Jenny Potts, February 2010

CONSERVATION OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010

I was out of commission for a while due to a knee op. last October. However I seem to have been busy with admin and meetings but not, I regret to say, underground. I am optimistic that this will happen soon though.

I have been very fortunate indeed to have had the help of Christine Wilson this year who, as Assistant Conservation Officer, has worked hard on various projects "above and beyond the call of duty..." including taking *daily* reading of CO₂ in Bagshawe cavern! Many thanks Chris.

The year started with a mega clean up project at Gautries Side Hole led by Martyn. A small but enthusiastic team removed an unbelievable amount of rubbish, but we were unable to clear it completely due to lack of time and heavy machinery. Thanks to all helpers and Mr Ritter, the farmer, who kindly lent us his best tractor.

The paper pulp problem at Hazard Mine was finally cleared up in May of last year (2009) with the valued help of the PDNPA. I am pleased to say that subsequent reports have indicated a much improved quality of water in the Peak streamway.

Unfortunately in September we encountered a similar problem at Moss/Shuttle Rake with the potential to impact adversely upon Bagshawe Cavern. A meeting was convened with NE, the Environment Agency and other interested parties, including Bob, who produced some very useful background information.

Work is ongoing, and any sightings of the spreading of paper pulp in our region would be appreciated.

As decaying organic material can generate CO₂, a spin off from this was the decision to monitor Bagshawe and other sites for gas levels and to continue the work of Ralph Johnson and the CCPC who had already started collecting data around the Peak. Following a great deal of research and preliminary work by Christine, a meeting was convened with experts on gas detection in caves - the outcome was the decision to spend a large chunk of our NE grant on gas monitoring meters. More on this will follow in due course when we have obtained the meters.

I was unavailable for the October UCF meeting but Bob was kind enough to chair the meeting for me. Paper pulp spreading and CO₂ levels in Bagshawe Cavern were on the agenda, and the meeting was well attended.

In November I represented DCA at the Upland Caves Network who convened a mini conference in Manchester over a weekend in November. The aim of the meetings is to improve communication between cavers and archaeologists and more workshops are planned. Several cavers conducted presentations on the work they do and I was able to publicise the conservation work we do in Derbyshire.

I believe the motives of the UCN are worthy but got the feeling that we are not yet regarded as equal partners!

Also in November Pete Mellors and myself attended an infrequent meeting of the BCA Conservation & Access Committee. Quite a lot of ground was covered including Insurance issues, how the SSSI Cave Monitoring programme has evolved in the various regions, (DCA in the lead of course!) and work on a Model Agreement for Access to Caves and Mines on National Trust land - several amendments were suggested.

SSSI Cave Monitoring meetings reconvened last December and there is now an urgent need to make up for lost time to complete the second round of monitoring, and we would appreciate your support in completing monitoring forms at the time of your normal club or individual caving trip. You will find blank forms and surveys and a list of caves that need monitoring at the SSSI Cave Monitoring website www.peakcavemonitoring.org.uk. Work has just been completed on a more detailed assessment of mineralogical and geological features in Devonshire, Wapping and Oxclose. This will facilitate location and recording at these SSSI sites.

I have started work on redesigning the “Do you Dig Caves” leaflet with the aim of including more relevant information on digging protocols and a clearer map of SSSI boundaries. It will be able to be opened out and placed on club notice boards as requested at a previous DCA Council meeting. The format will also enable the Yorkshire region to modify and use the leaflet in a similar way to ourselves.

Due to popular demand Jim and Jessica from the Derbyshire Bat Group have been busy again organising bat searching trips into mine adits in the Via Gellia , taking groups of local cavers interested in learning more about these fascinating creatures.

A lot of work has gone in to making Youd’s Level a more pleasant caving experience and following many visits by Dave Ottewell and myself, and a considerable expenditure by Severn Trent WA the place is finally clear of sewage. There is an area of instability in the Jant’s mine area and you are advised to take care. I have placed a warning notice in the entrance shaft.

*Dave Webb,
February 2010*

ASSISTANT CONSERVATION OFFICER’S REPORT FEBRUARY 2010

CO₂ in Bagshawe. December to present

Note: The following needs further continued study to be conclusive.

Levels have gone down to an acceptable level of risk in the ‘tourist route’ part of the cave, up as far as the Hippodrome and first part of passage that goes towards Top Stream Junction (< 0.5% total vol CO₂).

Presently, results suggest CO₂ levels appear to positively correlate with outside average temperatures. Lower and acceptable levels of CO₂ are found in the ‘tourist part’ when average external temperatures are less than the cave temperature. The cave temperature has remained at 8.5°C since Oct 19th.

The active stream at the downstream side of ‘Top Stream Junction’ continues to have higher levels of CO₂(1-2%) indicating a possible source of pollution from that region of the cave and/or from the water. During October levels found here were up to 4.5%, the remaining cave was at 2-3%. It seems as though the stream at Top Stream Junction is consistently reading 1-2% higher CO₂ levels to those found in the rest of the cave.

Other parts of the system have not been monitored and should be visited with care.

Amanda Reville and PICA remain informed.

Long Rake carbon monoxide (CO), oxygen

Several visits were made in January to Long Rake and nearby New Venture mine. New Venture mine lies close to the Hope Cement works (Lafarge) quarry.

A 45m line with a CO/O₂ meter on the end was dropped down both mines. The data-logging facility of the meter allowed readings to be taken every 15 secs on descent and ascent of the mine, but there is no guarantee the meter made it past the dog leg in Long Rake! Measurements were as for fresh air in New Venture mine and 20% total vol. oxygen for Long Rake, a decrease of 0.8%. No carbon monoxide was detected in either system.

It has been suggested that Long Rake needs to be descended with ‘rescue’ gear to ascertain the true picture.

Purchase of Meters

Funding from Natural England has made it possible for the DCA to purchase 2 oxygen meters and one carbon dioxide meter for monitoring CO₂ levels for conservation purposes. In a meeting with Nick Williams, John Gunn, Dave Webb and Ralph Johnson, (Jo Poll from Natural England) and myself, we agreed we would need to monitor as many SSSI caves as possible, for CO₂, to find those systems with elevated levels. Further and more conclusive studies will take place in and around those systems. It

was suggested the meters should be made accessible to all cavers in the north and south of the Peak. Nick Williams also has a meter for people to borrow at the 'Conformance centre' in Great Hucklow.

*Christine Wilson,
February 2010*

ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 2009

A fairly quiet year with few problems.

Ashford Black Marble Mine - has seen an increase in visits and the gate has received some remedial work.

Holme Bank Chert Mine - continues to be a thorn in the side regarding the continuous destruction of locks on the "Escape gate" and the Upper Entrance. Request the Projects Officer has a look to see if a solution can be found.

Joint Services (Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air force) have been in consultation with me regarding caves suitable for military use (I did suggest Tora Bora!).

I have fielded a vast increase in enquiries regarding access to obscure sites with a view to exploration; a welcome trend.

I am willing to stand for re-election if you'll have me and no one better suited stands.

COPD.

Another year of "publisher hunting" with a few let-downs. John Beck and I (mainly John), have kept the book up-to-date as the time passes. Several publishers (including Francis Lincoln who publish the Wainwrights) turned the book down for a variety of reasons. We are now in consultation with Wild Places Publishing and the situation seems hopeful, providing we agree to certain conditions which have been requested and to myself appear perfectly reasonable.

*Iain Barker
February 2010*

LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Liability Insurance

Things have been quiet over the past year, which is generally a sign that either the precise terms of cover have been satisfactorily agreed and are all in force, or that they have but aren't (if you follow) and we'll not really know which is the case till there's a claim. I'd feel happier if the BCA website included an up-to-date copy of the Policy. BCA Council would probably feel happier if I kept quiet. During 2009 DCA named Chatsworth, Natural England, the Peak Park Authority, Okeover Estate and the Bagshawe Cavern co-owners as Indemnified Principals. I need to know if further names should be on the list for 2010.

Chatsworth Licences

The licences granting access to Lathkill Garden Path & Upper Entrances, as well as to Ashford Black Marble Mine, were renewed in the course of the year. The new licences, which leave access terms unchanged, are due to expire in 2012.

Waterways Swallet

After a few uncharacteristic administrative hiccups and delays, Okeover Estate renewed the annual licence for access and parking here.

Jugholes

A report of signs of imminent collapse was investigated and as a result Dave Webb put up warning notices. On my advice these drew attention to the need for caution whilst warning that all cavers enter at their own risk. I am grateful for the monitoring PICA members and others do at this site.

Cucklet Delf (Delph??)

With Dave Webb I assisted in advising here on ways of safeguarding the route through the Nature Reserve, following a new collapse close to the bed of the stream and the path. I understand DCA's advice proved helpful in getting Natural England, the Peak Park Authority and those in charge of the Nature Reserve to work together to re-route the path, protect the stream, and re-fence the collapse.

BCA C & A Group Meeting

In November I attended, with Dave Webb, a meeting called to discuss, among other things, a BCA response to the proposed National Trust policy on access to caves and mines on Trust land. I came away pleased with the Trust's use of the model for access originally agreed between DCA and the then Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England) for Lathkill Dale. Progress towards agreeing final terms, however, seems to be painfully slow.

Re-election to Office

I am happy once again to put my experience and expertise, such as it is, along with my advancing senility, at DCA's disposal for another year, subject to voters' approval.

*Peter Mellors
February 2010*

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Winnats Head Cave

The Downstream pitches in Winnats Head Cave have been equipped with eco anchors. Immediately after The Sewer is a short 'up' pitch with a couple of rebelays which is permanently rigged with fixed ropes. This leads to the start of the 'downstream pitches'. Full details of pitches, rope lengths required etc. can be found in Information Circular 2009/04 and DCA newsletter 130.

Anchor Records

DCA anchor records are up-to-date.

New Anchor Installers

Three new anchor installers have been selected and Bob Dearman will run a BCA anchor installer training course in March.

*Jules Barrett,
February 2010*

DCA TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

It looks like I am getting back to normal and caving again (if that is normal!). Thanks to everyone in DCA for your support over the last few very difficult years.. I will now return the favour by giving you my time and enthusiasm again!

SRT TRAINING COURSE

There is a full blown 2 day SRT training course for those who may not be able to get training through their clubs. Includes all kit, ropes, instruction & insurance etc. There are follow up trips for those who are not able to make some club trips.

Date: **Saturday & Sunday March 21st & 22nd 2010 - £80 per person**

DCA SRT WORKSHOP - CAVING CLUB TRAINING SCHEME

Always a great day in the caving calendar and a brilliant opportunity to catch up with caving trends, techniques and equipment.

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!

Date: **Sunday April 18th 2010 - £20 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. First come first served!

Date: - **May 8th & 9th 2010 - £50 per person**

DCA SRT Underground Master class

This day will be of an informal nature with emphasis on personal techniques improvement. The trip will be run by a CIC holder and all of the ropes etc will be provided. I will sponsor these trips with insurance cover and lend any kit that you need. These trips are not an introduction to SRT, however they are perfect for newcomers or old hands wishing to pick up on techniques etc.

Date: **Sunday May 23rd 2010 - £30 per person**

Cave Instructor Certificate Scheme

We have a couple more Derbyshire CIC holders now, thanks guys for letting me get involved in your assessments, even though we got stuck in the December snow blizzard!

If you are interested in looking at becoming a Cave Instructor, why not get involved with some of the SRT workshops or some cave leader courses coming up?

BAT Training Course

I had the pleasure of attending the last one on Tuesday January 26th. This was run by Jim and Jess and attended by members of the Derbyshire cave leader panel. Everyone there was enthusiastic, even in my group when it took an hour to find one! We had great fun and it was a real pleasure to learn something new whilst caving.

If you want to learn shed loads about bats, have a great trip with equally minded enthusiasts, please check out future dates run by Jim and co!

Cave Photography Workshop

I am keen to set up another of these workshop type days in Cave Photography. I have contacted a couple of experts in this field and Robbie Shone got back to me with an interest in running this for DCA. I for one will definitely be going on this as my photos are still naff, even though I've been trying for 20 years plus! So if you want to learn from the best in the business, get in touch and we'll set a date.

CAVING CLUB TRAINING SCHEME - Training Officers Workshop

I have applied to the BCA training committee for a grant towards a 1 day training course for club training offers. If you are a club training officer, or thinking of becoming one, please get in touch. The workshop will look at training and assessment procedures and techniques as well as personal development. A must for anyone thinking about teaching caving to others.

Date: **Sunday June 6th 2010 - £20 per person**

'Come and Try Caving days 2010'

I am in the process of setting up introductory caving trips for the public to come and try caving. These will probably take place on the last Sunday of every month with the idea of offering a caving opportunity to potential new comers. If you are a leader or you are thinking about becoming a leader, please get in touch as these days will be a perfect opportunity for you to gain experience of working with both new and 'not so new' cave leaders in the region. This is not an idea to generate income and I guess not much will be made, however any proceeds will be put back into DCA funds and any spin offs will be gladly directed to those who are involved... see it as a small return for invested time!

CAVER TRAINING EVENTS 2010

SRT Training Course - Saturday & Sunday March 21st & 22nd 2010 - £80 per person

SRT workshop - Sunday April 18th- Derbyshire. £20 per person

Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop - May 8th & 9th. £50 per person

SRT Master class - Sunday May 23rd - Derbyshire. £30 per person

Training Officers Workshop - Sunday June 6th 2010 - £20 per person

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 1)

- Level 1 Thursday & Friday March 25th & 26th - Derbyshire - cave
- Level 1 Saturday March 27th - Derbyshire - mines day
- Level 1 Wednesday April 7th - Derbyshire - mines day
- Level 1 Saturday & Sunday May 8th & 9th - Derbyshire - cave
- Level 1 Thursday & Friday June 3rd & 4th - Derbyshire - cave
- Level 1 Saturday June 5th - Derbyshire - mines day
- Level 1 Thursday & Friday July 1st & 2nd - Derbyshire - cave
- Level 1 Saturday July 3rd - Derbyshire - mines day

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 1) Refresher Days

- Level 1 Thursday March 18th - Derbyshire

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 2)

- Level 2 Saturday & Sunday March 13th & 14th - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Saturday & Sunday April 17th & 18th - Yorkshire
- Level 2 Saturday & Sunday May 1st & 2nd - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Saturday & Sunday June 5th & 6th - Yorkshire

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 2) Refresher Days

- Level 2 Sunday March 14th - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Sunday April 11th - Derbyshire

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 1, Module 1 cave core skills)

- Level 1 Saturday March 27th - Derbyshire
- Level 1 Thursday April 15th - Derbyshire
- All LC/MLA group day assessments by arrangement

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 1, Module 1 mine transfer)

- Level 1 Mine Tuesday March 23rd - Derbyshire
- Level 1 Mine Thursday April 8th - North Wales
- Level 1 Mine Thursday May 6th - Derbyshire
- All LC/MLA group day assessments by arrangement

Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 2, Module 3 vertical skills)

- Level 2 Sunday March 14th - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Friday April 16th - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Thursday May 6th - Derbyshire
- Level 2 Thursday June 3rd - Derbyshire
- All LC/MLA group day assessments by arrangement

Cave Instructor Certificate Scheme

- BCA Cave Instructor Training (CIC) - April 12th to 16th 2010
- BCA Cave Instructor Assessments (CIC) - By arrangement only

*Nigel Atkins
February 2010*

CAVE REGISTRY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Registry just continues. There have been a number of significant discoveries in the past year, and those involved have been very conscientious in sending information for inclusion. Anything added to the registry will, of course, appear in the new Caves of the Peak District. This is now looking as though it will actually happen soon, and anything can be added right up to the moment when the text goes away for publication.

I am still using the old "Idealist" software. Despite being about 20 years old this still runs under new versions of Windows, but this may not always continue to be the case. I still have not found a system

that is as simple, searchable, exportable and quick as Idealist, but exporting to another format occasionally might be advisable if anyone has any suggestions.

*John Beck,
February 2010*

BCA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

BCA elected a new Chairman in 2009: Andy Eavis: he has a hard act to follow after Mick Day, but is proving to be efficient and well in command of meetings. We also have an enthusiastic Secretary in Damian Weare and an efficient Treasurer in Dave Cooke.

All BCA AGM and Council Minutes are on the BCA website: www.british-caving.org.uk so you can read for yourselves what is happening. The AGM is due on 20th. March and the Agenda is also on the website.

There are three items of business taken during the past year which have a particular bearing on DCA's business:

The British Caving Library

BCA has agreed to support the British Caving Library Development Plan with funding of £5000 for 2009 and £10,000 per year until 2014; this gives the Library solid backing and a secure future as it is managed by BCRA on behalf of all cavers and there is a paid Librarian working part time on site. Since the Library is located in Derbyshire, at Glutton Bridge, just south of Buxton, Derbyshire cave and mine explorers and researchers are ideally placed to make use of it. DCA Conservation Officer, David Webb, and a group from Peak District Mines Historical Society have already spent a number of days working there with the assistance of the Librarian. I have been appointed by BCRA as Library Co-ordinator and would welcome enquiries from Derbyshire cavers wanting to make use of the facilities. The Library has its own website: www.caving-library.org.uk.

Anchor Installation Training

Unfortunately, the new installation training document agreed by the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee seems to have created some fears among Mendip cavers, though it is not quite clear why. This generated some heated discussion on line but the planned BCA Council meeting on 20 January had to be called off due to snow, so there was no opportunity for face-to-face discussion to resolve the issue. DCA has already indicated (at our June 2009 Council meeting) that it is happy with the document, as are CNCC; Devon & Cornwall Underground Council and Cambrian Council also seem poised to adopt it. I would suggest that DCA **formally adopts the IPTD, (entitled PERMANENT RESIN BONDED ANCHORS - INSTALLATION PROCEDURE, TRAINING & DOCUMENTATION) Issue 4 - Updated 23rd March 2009**, as the standard BCA document on Eco-anchor installation. This will leave no doubt as to the procedure used in our region and ensure that we are covered by BCA's PL insurance.

BCA Constitutional Changes

After discussion among Council members during the past year, the BCA Secretary has formulated a number of proposed amendments to the BCA Constitution, aimed at making the organisation run more efficiently and avoiding some issues which have become stumbling blocks to progress. These are detailed in the BCA AGM Agenda. It is up to DCA to decide whether it wishes members discuss them at our AGM, however all BCA members, Club and Direct Individual Members, will have a chance to vote on the amendments in a ballot later this year.

*Jenny Potts, DCA Rep. to BCA Council
February 2010*

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2009***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)*

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Previous Year (2008)</u> |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| General admin. / Information Services, etc. | | |
| Travel | 14.00 | 25.60 |
| Post | 139.64 | 74.42 |
| Phone / Email | 20.00 | 6.19 |
| Materials, printing, copying, etc. | 240.84 | 647.25 |
| | 414.48 | 753.46 |
| Conservation and Access, etc. | | |
| Travel | 96.40 | 173.20 |
| Post / phone / email / paperwork | 5.96 | 20.71 |
| Materials | 538.27 | 935.92 |
| | 640.63 | 1,129.83 |
| Cave Conservation Plans / Underground Cons. Forum | | |
| Travel | 29.80 | 75.20 |
| Post / phone / email / paperwork | 44.19 | 12.18 |
| Materials | 44.96 | 0.00 |
| | 118.95 | 87.38 |
| Equipment, Anchor Installation, etc. | | |
| Travel | 0.00 | 55.20 |
| Post / phone / email / paperwork | 0.81 | 0.00 |
| Materials | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 0.81 | 55.20 |
| Publications: Newsletter, Consn. Audits, Handbook, etc. | | |
| Newsletter | 0.00 | 399.21 |
| Handbook, Caves of the Peak District | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Printing, postage, etc. Conservation Audits | 3.18 | 147.23 |
| Other | 100.00 | |
| | 103.18 | 546.44 |
| Training, PICA Liaison, etc. | | |
| Travel | 149.00 | 671.60 |
| Post / phone / email / paperwork | 40.44 | 24.65 |
| Training Events, instruction, etc. | 316.65 | 816.15 |
| | 506.09 | 1,512.40 |
| SSSI Conservation work for Natural England | | |
| Travel / communications / materials 2007/8 contract | | 1,136.01 |
| Travel / communications / materials 2008/9 contract | 1,358.89 | 0.00 |
| Travel / communications / materials 2009/10 contract | 100.00 | |
| | 1,458.89 | 1,136.01 |
| 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>3,243.03</u> | <u>5,220.72</u> |

(Accounts: Page 1 of 3)

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2009***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)*

| <u>INCOME</u> | | <u>Previous Year (2008)</u> |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Subscriptions & Entry Fees, (Individual Members only) | 428.00 | 476.00 |
| Publications Sales | | |
| Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver" | 15.00 | 142.50 |
| Handbook | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Masson Conservation Audit | 22.00 | 13.00 |
| Jug Holes Information Pack | 50.70 | 49.40 |
| Cumberland/Wapping Conservation Audit | 45.00 | 54.00 |
| Manifold/Hamps Conservation Audit | 88.00 | 0.00 |
| | 220.70 | 258.90 |
| Donations from Members | | |
| To General Fund | 155.00 | 105.60 |
| To Cave Discovery Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| To Cave Conservation Emergency Fund, etc. | 0.00 | 120.00 |
| | 155.00 | 225.60 |
| BCA Grants | | |
| Core Funding (Admin. and Cons. Access.) | 1,725.31 | 1,037.61 |
| Training | 0.00 | 1,266.96 |
| | 1,725.31 | 2,304.57 |
| Awards & Grants by Non-Caving Organisations | | |
| Natural England SSSI projects 2007/8 | | 2,478.59 |
| Natural England SSSI projects 2008/9 | 2,493.21 | 0.00 |
| Natural England SSSI projects 2009/10 | 0.00 | |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 2,493.21 | 2,478.59 |
| Cavers Training Course Fees | 240.00 | 340.00 |
| Refreshments at Meetings | 0.00 | 29.40 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| <u>TOTAL INCOME</u> | <u>5,262.22</u> | <u>6,113.06</u> |
| Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 3,243.03 | 5,220.72 |
| <u>Excess Income over Expenditure</u> | <u>2,019.19</u> | <u>892.34</u> |

(Accounts: Page 2 of 3)

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2009***(Note that figures for the previous year are included for comparison)*

| Balances brought forward to 1 January 2009 | | | Previous Year (2008) |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bank | Current Account | 436.54 | 290.47 |
| | Deposit Account | 8,303.87 | 6,903.10 |
| Cash in Hand | Secretary | -12.00 | 12.99 |
| | Projects Officer | 0.00 | 511.90 |
| | | ----- | ----- |
| | | 8,728.41 | 7,718.46 |
| Add excess income | | 2,019.19 | 892.34 |
| Add interest on Deposit Account | | 34.85 | 117.61 |
| | | ----- | ----- |
| Balance to Carry Forward at 31 December 2009 | | 10,782.45 | 8,728.41 |
| | | ===== | ===== |

| Balances Brought Forward to 1 January 2010 | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bank | Current Account | 1,950.62 | 436.54 |
| | Deposit Account | 8,831.93 | 8,303.87 |
| Cash in Hand | Secretary | -0.10 | -12.00 |
| | Projects Officer | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | ----- | ----- |
| | | 10,782.45 | 8,728.41 |
| | | ===== | ===== |

Note that the balance carried forward includes:

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Held in Cave Discovery Fund | 486.77 | 486.77 |
| Held in DCA Cave Conservation Emergency Fund | 932.59 | 932.59 |

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

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Materials/Equipment: | | |
| DCA Banner (2008) | 110.64 | 138.30 |
| DCA Laminated notices (2008) | 47.04 | 58.80 |
| DCA Stand shelter etc. (2008) | 171.18 | 213.98 |
| Belle Cement Mixer & Honda Engine (1997) | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Ingersoll Rand Rotary Compr. Air Drill (Don. 1998) | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Publications: | | |
| Cave Conservation Publications (Nom. Val. at Tr. Pr.) | 24.00 | 222.00 |
| Total value assets held | 352.86 | 633.08 |

J.E.Potts
20 Feb. 2010

NOTE: Accounts presented subject to inspection/audit