

The British Caving Association

NEWSLETTER

This is the first BCA Newsletter to appear for some time. Mike Clayton stepped down as Editor in June 2012 after several years of sterling service, to concentrate on his work for the BCRC and, unfortunately, we have been unable to find a replacement.

We urgently need someone to volunteer for this role if we are to keep in touch with our members adequately. You would not be signing yourself up for hours of envelope-stuffing, as that is done by our printing company. Instead we need someone to a) collate news and b) turn it into a presentable format. The tasks could be split amongst two people if we can find the right people. If you think you could spare a few hours on a regular basis, please contact Les Williams, **publications @ british-caving.org.uk**.

Damian Weare, BCA Secretary

Warning – Bowline on the Bight Knots

BCA's Training and Equipment & Techniques Committees would like to highlight the importance of **always clipping a cowstail through both loops of a Bowline on the Bight knot**. Although this has been taught for years by BCA instructors, it appears that many cavers are not aware of the importance. The problem is that, in a fall, the knot can slip in such a way that the rope going down the pitch can actually run all the way back through the knot. This means that a caver falling at a pitch head with their cows tail clipped into only *one* of the two loops could potentially plummet to the bottom of the pitch. This cannot happen if you are clipped into *both* loops. A useful tip is for the rigger to leave an HMS karabiner clipped between the two loops to make it easier for the rest of the party to clip in and it is always worth remembering that two cows tails are preferable to one. See videos at **efs.ffspeleo.fr/techniques/noeuds** [French Caving School] and **youtu.be/-5-YbRxcceY** [Pete Knight CIC].

Newsletter written by Damian Weare; edited & laid-out by David Gibson.
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Lower Membership Fee for Students

BCA membership rates for 2013 will remain at 2012 levels for all categories. However, we are extending the scope of the discount for full-time students and under-18s that was previously only available to Club Individual Members (CIMs).

From now on this will also apply to Direct Individual Members (DIMs) reducing the cost of student DIM membership from £32 to £16. In addition, BCRA has waived its membership fee for students, meaning that students can now join both organisations for a total of just £16.

Existing student CIMs will be able to upgrade to DIM membership (and BCRA membership if the desire) for a further £8. This will not only ensure that they are supporting BCRA's valuable work, but they will receive all BCA's publications as well as online access to Cave and Karst Science.

It is hoped that these two offers will help improve not only the age profile of BCRA's membership, but also the number of people involved in cave science in the future.

For more information about BCA and BCRA membership in general, see the next page. For queries on any aspect of membership, including upgrading to student DIM membership, please contact BCA's Membership Administrator, Glenn Jones, **membership @ british-caving.org.uk**.

Are you Confused by BCA Membership Categories?

Many readers will be aware of the online caving forum at **ukcaving.com**. Recently it hosted a discussion about BCA and BCRA membership categories. BCA has always recognised that the existing structure is quite complex. However it was set up with the best of intentions at



BCA's inception to deal with a range of conflicting requirements, not least of which was to make it as cheap as possible for clubs, landowners and members to be insured.

The online discussion has prompted the Secretary, Damian Weare to write a short summary of the different categories of membership that are available. Comments online suggested this was quite useful, so a slightly amended version of it appears in the box below.

A review of the entire BCA Membership Structure is currently underway. Any comments or suggestions will be gratefully received and should be sent to the BCA Secretary, Damian Weare, secretary@british-caving.org.uk.

Volunteers Needed for British Caving Library

In 2011, work began re-cataloguing the entire collection at the British Caving Library. This is progressing well, thanks to a lot of hard work by a small number of volunteers and the Senior Library Assistant, Mary Wilde.

All books have now been catalogued, periodicals are progressing and recently someone has also volunteered to begin with the modern surveys. As

EQUALITY STATEMENT

The BCA will make its services available to all sections of the sporting community. There will be no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.

the catalogue is updated, changes are also included in the online database, which will eventually allow searches of the entire collection from the British Caving Library web site. It is hoped that a few more volunteers might be encouraged to come along and help with the work. There is some fascinating stuff hiding away!

The Library is also lucky to regularly receive donations from cavers, ex-cavers and their relatives, increasing holdings of past material. To ensure there is a complete and up-to-date collection covering the whole country, clubs are encouraged to send a copy of their current publications. **One caving club is even changing its constitution to ensure that its own Library's contents would be donated to the BCL in the event of the club folding.** This is something other clubs might like to consider the next time they revise their constitutions.

How BCA Membership Works

Individuals can join BCA in two ways, either directly (i.e. they liaise directly with the BCA Membership Administrator, Glenn Jones) or through their club (i.e. they liaise with their club secretary/treasurer, who collates the information and liaises with Glenn on their members' behalf).

The second option is cheaper because the club does some of the administration and it also agrees to communicate with members on BCA's behalf, meaning their members do not need to receive individual copies of BCA's Handbook, Newsletters, Speleology, AGM notifications etc.

The vast majority chooses to join BCA by this latter route (and pays £17 instead of £32). This is called Club Individual Membership (or CIM) and does not involve any direct contact with BCA at all. The alternative, direct route is called Direct Individual Membership (DIM).

To slightly complicate things, in the interests of fairness there are various discounts available. These are a) for full-time students and under-18s, b) for non-cavers (who pay a lower insurance contribution), and c) for joint members (two DIMs at the same address who elect to share one copy of all publications).

As a further complication – but designed to be helpful for some – individuals can choose to join through their club but pay the full membership fee and receive publications. This is called CIM Plus.

Anyone who is a DIM (or CIM Plus) can also choose to join BCRA. This costs a further £12 (or £22 to receive their publications on paper). It is not possible to join BCRA as a BCA CIM member, the principle reason being that BCA and BCRA share some publications, so prospective BCRA members need to pay for these by upgrading to a BCA DIM or CIM Plus.

All this is handled *very* effectively by an excellent membership form (with online and paper-based versions – see caves.org.uk/payments/bca). Once you are a member, you are posted an annual renewal form asking for the next year's payment, making the whole process painless.

Radon Update

The second edition of the guidance publication *Radon Underground* has recently been published on the BCA web site as a free download. It has been produced by BCA's Radon Working Party and provides valuable advice for landowners and anyone seeking to negotiate with landowners, as well as all those who venture underground, particularly anyone doing so professionally.

BCA is also funding ten radon detectors for use in the Nenthead Mines and in various locations in Western Scotland. It is hoped that the information gained from these will help begin to fill the gap in our knowledge about radon in areas other than those with Carboniferous Limestone. No doubt anything we learn will be published in due course. Thanks are due to Clark Friend, in particular, for his hard work.

Access to Caves via Public Rights of Way

BCA's Conservation & Access and Legal & Insurance Officers have come together to publish advice for Regional Councils on the potential for losing access to some caves in the future.

In 2026 any Public Rights of Way in England and Wales that are not marked on a definitive map are destined to be lost forever. Although this will not affect the vast majority, such as those already marked on OS Maps, there are definitely some Public Rights of Way that have not ever made their way onto the definitive map and these could be lost if action is not taken. Full details are available from the BCA web site.

FSE Magazine

The *Fédération Spéléologique Européenne* has published the first edition of its new Journal, called *Euro Speleo Magazine*. Articles for future editions can be sent to articles@eurospeleo.eu. It would be good to see British caving represented here.

FSE EuroSpeleo Grants

EuroSpeleo Grants were launched in 2006 to encourage co-operation between European countries. Since then a variety of activities, ranging from overseas expeditions to training events, have received money and 'gifts' through the Scheme. To date, though, we are not aware of a successful application from a UK-based team. Recently the

rules have changed making it easier to qualify and anyone running any activity involving people from several nations, including Latin American and African/Middle Eastern countries, is encouraged to read the updated rules available from the front page of the BCA web site.

Training Grants

BCA Training Grants continue to be available for recreational training events. These are generally paid at a third of the total cost of the event, but events costing up to £100 may be fully funded. If your club is considering organising any training in 2013 then, provided it is being run by a suitably qualified person, it is definitely worth trying to recoup some of the costs from BCA. Further information and an application form are available from the BCA website, or by contacting the Training Officer directly via training@british-caving.org.uk.

5th European Speleological Congress: Ingleton 2016

BCA has been successful in its bid to host the next European Speleological Congress in 2016. The Congress, which is held every eight years, was previously in Lans-en-Vercors in 2008, and was very successful. For 2016, we are expecting to attract considerable numbers of our European counterparts to sample the best that British cavers and caving have to offer.

Although organising such an event – which will be substantially bigger than Hidden Earth – may seem daunting, the Hidden Earth team has amassed considerable experience over the years and we are fortunate that Les Williams, the Hidden Earth Conference Manager, has agreed to lead the team for 2016.

Planning is still in the early stages but the major decisions relating to timing and venue will be taken in the next six months. Les has already put together a strong team of volunteers but many more will be needed as time moves on. If you think you or your Club can help show Europe what we have to offer, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Regional News

Northern

Barbondale: There are some changes to access arrangements for caves and ghylls in Barbondale. The requirement to obtain permission from the Estate Office in Cowan Bridge is changing and access to caves and ghylls on land owned by the Kay-Shuttleworth Estate will be managed through CNCC. The CNCC web site will be updated soon.

Mendips

Manor Farm Swallet: The land owner at Manor Farm Swallet, Mr Jeffries, is not too happy at being disturbed in the early hours several times by people leaving the cave at all hours. He has asked that people are out of the cave by 10pm at the latest, unless prior arrangement is made with him by phoning 01761 462366, but please only do so if absolutely necessary. Unfortunately people have been going down the cave without seeking permission. He has said that if this continues, he

will look into locking the cave so that people will have to see him for the key. Please respect the landowner's wishes and remember that it is only by his consent that we are able to visit his cave.

Sludge Pit & Nine Barrows Swallet: CSCC is currently in negotiations with the landowner to set up an access agreement. Part of this will be the need to carry out some work to provide an access route to the caves. Until this is complete the caves remain closed. Please stay away for now and be patient. The caves have been closed for the last 27 years, another few weeks wait won't hurt.

East Twin Swallet/Spar Pot: There is a continuing collapse of the boulders in the roof of the first small chamber as you crawl from East Twin to Spar Pot. This started with some infill in the floor of this passage being washed out by heavy rain, and a week later some rocks had fallen. Some rocks are still some wedged, and it is currently very dangerous. Take great care or stay away for now. An update is due shortly, so check the CSCC web site for the latest information.

16th International Congress of Speleology – Brno 2013

Andy Eavis, BCA's Chairman, and President of the International Union of Speleology writes...

The next International Congress of Speleology is now only a few months away. Please look on the web site speleo2013.com for further information. The basic registration for the whole conference, if paid before the end of January 2013, is only a little over €140, very good value for a week-long conference. In addition pre-booked accommodation starts at under €5 per night for camping next to the Australian pub!

The wonderful pre- and post-congress excursions are selling out fast, so please book soon. The prices start at €100 for a four-day camp in Budapest; details at speleo2013.com. You will need to check the airlines carefully to find cheap flights. Ryanair, operating from London Stansted, will open their bookings for July early in 2013 and it will probably cost around €30 return if you book early.

The venue is an old conference centre built before the Second World War and, as such, is very suitable for a Caving Conference, with plenty of room and not too many frills. The Hotels and dormitories around the Conference Centre are of all standards, some being very comfortable indeed. I am sure there will be some magnificent parties, both official and unofficial. During the week-long congress there will be a day of excursions where you will be able to visit some impressive local caves or take a trip to one of several cultural and natural world sites.

The deadline for scientific papers was December 2012. But don't forget the entries for the competitions. Like any caving conference there will be competitions for cartography, caving art, multi-media presentations and, during the conference, there will be caving Olympics with rope climbing etc. In addition the International Union of Speleology also gives prizes for the best discovery that they consider has been made since the previous conference and there will be mention of the best books published over that period. There will also be a UIS poster prize presented to the best poster in Brno. There are some substantial prizes so please get working on your presentations. There should be in the region of 2,000 like-minded cavers at this conference and I am certain it is going to be highly interesting and enjoyable.

I look forward to seeing you all there in July 2013 – Andy Eavis

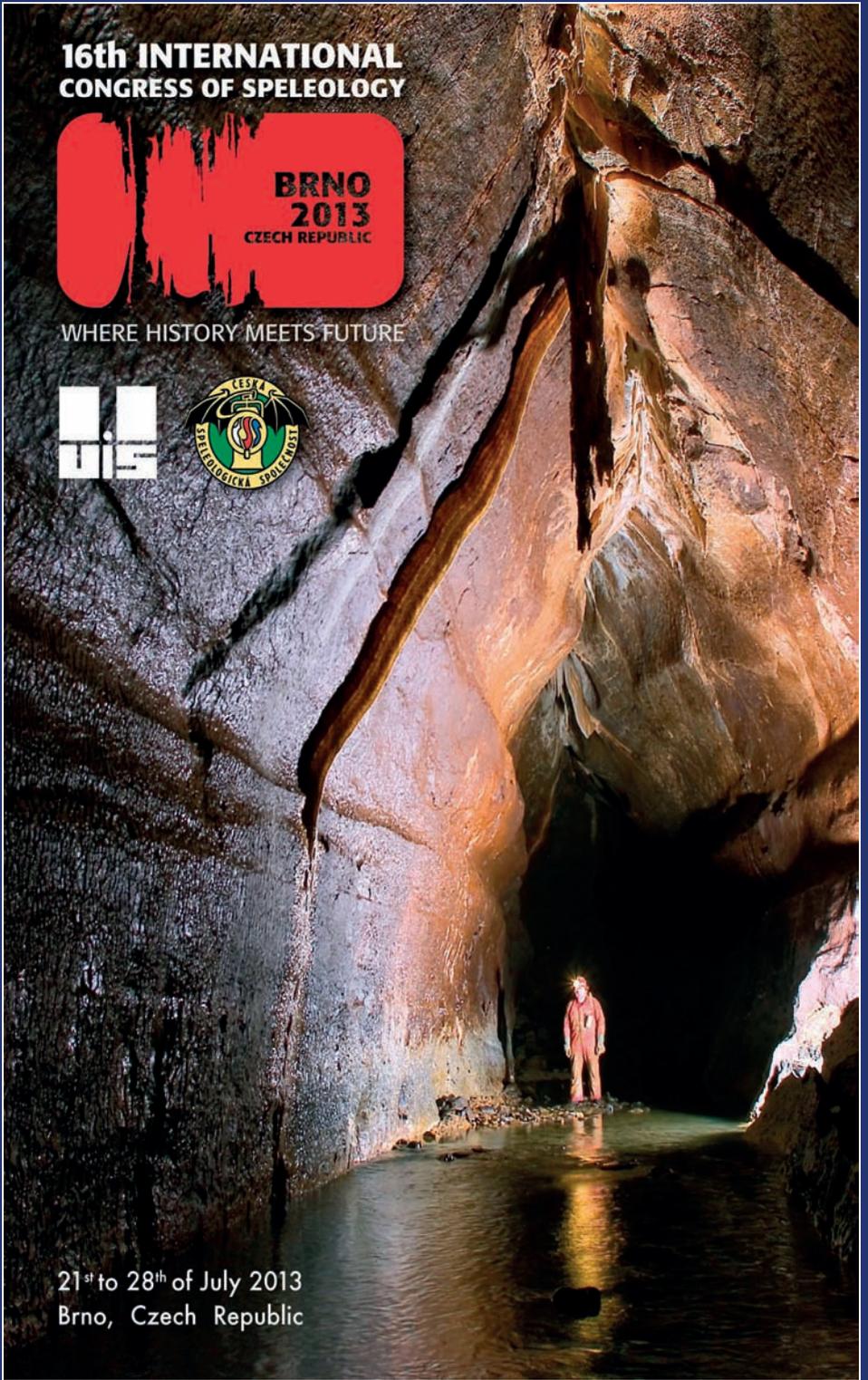
16th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY



WHERE HISTORY MEETS FUTURE



21st to 28th of July 2013
Brno, Czech Republic



BCA Annual General Meeting Weekend, 15-16 June 2013

In a change from previous years, the 2013 Annual General Meeting will take place as part of a **weekend of activities** based at the Rotary Centre in Castleton. The AGM itself will begin at 10:30am on Sunday 16 June, to follow on from a cave-science event arranged in conjunction with BCRA and, on the Saturday evening, a party. The cost of the weekend will be relatively low with the intention only of breaking even, and it is hoped to attract a considerable number of members, particularly those based locally, to attend as much of the weekend as possible.

For anyone wishing to stay overnight there is ample camping available on site, as well as up to 50 beds indoors. Exact costs are still to be worked out, but indoor beds should be no more than £10 per person per night and camping will probably be around £1 per person per night. There will also be a small charge for food on the Saturday evening. Beds and camping should be booked in advance by contacting the **secretary@british-caving.org.uk**. It would also be appreciated if those intending to attend any of the other events over the weekend also let the Secretary know, to help with our planning.

Annual General Meeting Notification

The BCA AGM will be held at the Rotary Centre in Castleton on Sunday, 16 June at 10:30 am.

In line with the BCA Constitution one third of the Officers are elected each year.

For 2013 these will be...

- Secretary (to serve for 3 years)
- Conservation & Access Officer (to serve for 3 years)
- Legal & Insurance Officer (to serve for 3 years)

In addition the following Representatives will be up for election...

- 2 Club Representatives (to serve for 2 years)
- 2 Individual Member Representatives (to serve for 2 years)
- 1 Individual Member Representative (to serve the remaining year of a 2-year term)

Nominations for posts must include...

- the post the candidate wishes to stand for.
- the candidate's name, address, phone number, signature and membership number.
- the proposer's and seconder's names, membership numbers and signatures.
- a brief election statement of a maximum of 300 words in length.

Nominations, plus Items for the Agenda must reach the BCA Secretary no later than midnight on Saturday, 16 March 2013. The Agenda and Election Statements will then be posted to all Group, Direct Individual and CIM Plus members by 5 May 2013. They will also be available on the BCA web site.

Member Clubs should ensure that their members are aware of these arrangements. A PDF version of this information is available from the BCA web site to assist with this.

Members should note that for the purposes of voting at the AGM each Group may send one voting delegate who must bring with them a letter signed by an officer giving them the authority to represent that group. Individual Members should bring their membership card.

Hidden Earth 2012

A very successful event was held at Burnley at the end of September. At the conference, a number of awards and prizes were handed out. Full details of the competition winners can be found on the web site at hidden-earth.org.uk/history/winners.2012.html.

Arthur Butcher Award

BCRA awards the Arthur Butcher prize annually for contributions to cave surveying. The judges look at projects brought to their notice during the year, as well as all surveying work that is on display at the Hidden Earth conference.

This year the award goes to **Andrew Atkinson** for furthering the long-term success of UK Cave Surveying via his courses on paperless surveying, and for his work in setting up the BCA cave surveying data archive. Andrew receives the Arthur Butcher trophy to keep for one year and £100 cash from BCRA.

Citation by Wookey, on behalf of the judges Kevin Dixon, Anthony Day and John Stevens.

Treatman Award

The Treatman Award is presented to the author of the best caving-related publication of the year, being judged by three cavers who make a recommendation for the award to the Ghar Parau Foundation (a sub-charity of BCRA) which funds the award.

Books and club journals were considered that were published in 2011, and a shortlist was produced for further discussion. In alphabetical order of author or editor, the titles were...

Caves of the Peak District by Iain Barker and John Beck – an excellent guidebook published by DCA. The publication year was printed as 2010, but the volume was not released until too late for consideration in 2010, so – as the new rules permit – it was short-listed for consideration for the 2011 award.

Decades in the Dark, edited by Alan Jeffreys and subtitled '50 years

of Scottish caving', covers the history of the Grampian SG from 1961-2011.

Sheffield University SS 50th Anniversary Journal 1961-2011, a club history with similar coverage, edited by Rob Middleton.

Shuttleworth Pot into Witches Cave II, edited by Pete Monk and published by CNCC, being a comprehensive and timely documentation of the cave's exploration (a factor that the judges felt that other caves would benefit from).

Aspects of the History of Slovene Karst 1545-2008 by Trevor Shaw, a fine piece of research immaculately presented to the reader, just as we would expect from this author. It is also dated 2010 but was not available for consideration until 2011.

After much deliberation, from among these commended publications the judges unanimously decided that the 2011 Treatman Award should go to *Decades in the Dark*. In reaching their decision, the judges noted that it contains a high volume of material written specifically for the publication (rather than only reprinting past articles), it is liberally scattered with photographs and the text is interesting and readable (this publication is far more than a chronology).

Congratulations therefore go to **Alan 'Goon' Jeffreys** and his team from the Grampian SG. All entries in the shortlist should note the prestige that is conferred here, though there can only be one winner. The award itself is a piece of original artwork by Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley, which was presented to Goon at Hidden Earth 2012.

Citation by Chris Howes, on behalf of the judges, Ric Halliwell, Chris Howes and Martin Mills, who also sought opinion from a wider readership.

Giles Barker Award

Giles Barker lost his life while caving in Spain in 1992. An accomplished cave photographer, Giles was a member of the Red Rose CPC and Morgannwg CC. These clubs have annually, since 1993, funded the Giles Barker Award in his memory. This prestigious award is given to a person connected with any aspect of cave photography in recognition of his or her excellence and contributions to the field.

After a gap of six years, the subject of underground films returns to the fore. **Dave Webb** has been involved with the medium for over twenty years, variously making films to a consistently high standard, helping to judge the Hidden Earth video salon (which he has also won), sharing his knowledge through teaching at workshops and always entertaining others with exceptional film shows. He is particularly recognised for his documentaries *To Titan from the Top*, concerning the discovery of Titan, and *Fight for Life* about the tragic loss of Neil Moss in Peak Cavern. Dave was also recently appointed as the guardian of the 1960s film *The Underground Journey*, conserving it for future generations.

Dave's prolific output at such a high quality makes him an entirely appropriate recipient of this twentieth Giles Barker Award, recognised with a hand-crafted statue of a cave photographer made by Ceris Jones.

Citation by Chris Howes, on behalf of Morgannwg CC and Red Rose CPC

Hidden Earth Conference Team

A grateful thank-you to the conference team listed below and also, of course, to the lecturers and session chairs, the traders, sponsors and the delegates themselves, who all contributed to the event's success

Conference Manager – LES WILLIAMS

Conference Secretary	David Judson
Conference Treasurer	Dave Cooke
Trade Hall Manager	Hat Stand
Event Signage	Geoff Dommett and The Doug



Tech. Team Manager – LES WILLIAMS

Alistair Smith, Andy Morse, Badger, Bartek Biela, Basher, Ben Wright, Chris Williams, Dave Appleing, Faye Litherland, Frank Tully, Fraser Simpson, Gary Cullen, Helen Dear, Jed Waldren, Mark Kellaway, Matt Jones, Mike Clayton, Paul Wilman, Pauline Biela, Sam Drake, Simon Richardson, Stu Waldren, Tim Webber, Tom Thomson

Admin. Team Manager – WENDY WILLIAMS

with Jo Diamond, Wendy Bollard, Lou Biffin, Natalie Ashford, Martell Linsdell, Sarah McPhee.

Events Team:

Lecture Secretary – EMMA PORTER

SRT Events	Mark Wright
Speleo Olympics	Nigel Gower, with Michael Waterworth
Opening MC	Andy Eavis
Opening AV	Chris Jewell
After Dinner Speaker	Harry Long
Closing MC	Goon & Andy Eavis
Closing AV	Chris Binding
Closing Script and Projections	Geoff Dommett, with Paul Dold, Footleg, David Gibson, and Jerry Wooldridge



Competitions Team:

Secretary – DAVID GIBSON

Photo Salon Co-ordinators	Footleg, Paul Dold
Video Media Co-ordinator	David Gibson
Art Salon Co-ordinators	Robin Gray
Surveying Competition	Juan Corrin
Club Stands Award	Les Williams
Arthur Butcher Award	Wookey
Treatman Award	Chris Howes
Giles Barker Award	Chris Howes
Moore Books competition	Mike Moore

Judges: Rob Eavis, Mark Shinwell, Brendan Marris, Hugh Penney

Judges: Paul Dold, Rob Eavis, Glenn Jones

Judges: Robin Gray, Sue Gray, Wolf Anning

Judges: Harry Long and conference delegate Zdenek Motycka

Judges: Kevin Dixon, Anthony Day, John Stevens

Judges: Ric Halliwell, Chris Howes, Martin Mills

Judges: Morgannwg CC, Red Rose CPC

Judges: Mike Moore

Sponsorship & Publicity –

ELSIE LITTLE, KAY EASTON

Publicity	Maxine Bateman
Poster Design	Jerry Wooldridge
Flyer Design & Web Site	David Gibson
Programme Design	Paul Mann

Bar Manager – DAVE KING

Bar Staff – Amy Burchell, Darrel Instrell, Dave (Angus) Bell, Dave (Droid) Drury, Dave Tuffery, Gareth Thompson, Gordon Waldie, John Forder, Miranda Forder, Nick Powell, Paul Gladman, Pete Slade, Richard (Spike) Neal, Sue Hargraves



Site Team Liaison – LES WILLIAMS

With thanks to the Site Staff – Dionne, Janet, Geoff & Ian; and to Michael & the Catering Team



2013 Science Symposium

Presentations of papers on Cave and Karst Science topics, Saturday 9 March

*This one-day Cave Science Symposium will be on **Saturday 9 March** at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Notts. and is a joint meeting with the East Midlands Geological Society. It will be hosted by Dr Andrew Farrant of the BGS.*

For up-to-date information, and a copy of the lecture secretary's circular, please go to BCRA's Web Forum, bcra.org.uk/forum or contact the lecture secretary Trevor Faulkner, t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk

Each year the Symposium covers a range of cave science topics, so you should find something of interest, whether you are an academic, an amateur scientist or a caver wanting to find out more about the underground environment.

Registration will take place at the start of the seminar. A small admission charge will cover tea and coffee in the morning and afternoon.

Cave Science Field Meeting

Field Meetings in Lincolnshire and Nottingham and a British Caving Library Open Day on Sunday 10 March

The **Lincolnshire** meeting will be led by Professor Tim Atkinson, of University College, London, to the Oolitic limestone, which exhibits many karst features. This meeting will require car and petrol sharing and driving eastwards to follow water-traced flow routes from the sinks to a large spring in the Fens and will take all morning and afternoon.

The **Nottingham** meeting will be led by Dr. Tony Waltham to some of the many man-made caves excavated in the Sherwood Sandstone beneath the city centre. The

BCRA Events Diary

◆ Weekend, 20-21 April, 2013

Cave Technology Symposium in South Wales. (Tretower village hall). Organised by BCRA special interest groups, CREG, CSG and EUG. Contact Mike Bedford & Rob Gill, tech-sym@bcra.org.uk

◆ Saturday, 25 May, 2013

BCRA Field Trip. (Meet at Methodist Church, Ingleton at 09:30. Finish 18:00). *The Significance of the Porcellanous Bed to Cave Formation in the Yorkshire Dales.* This will involve visits to two surface locations in the Dales. Contact Dave Checkley, d.checkley@bcra.org.uk

◆ Saturday, 15 June, 2013

BCRA Karst Science Field Meeting, Derbyshire. This field meeting will be a part of BCA's AGM weekend, which includes a party on Sat. eve. in Castleton. The field meeting may visit the karst sites in Dowell Dale, adjacent to Glutton Bridge, assisted by Orpheus Caving Club, and may include an 'open day' at the caving library at Glutton Bridge. Contact: t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk

meeting will conclude at one of the public houses that have cave cellars and where lunchtime refreshment may then be obtained.

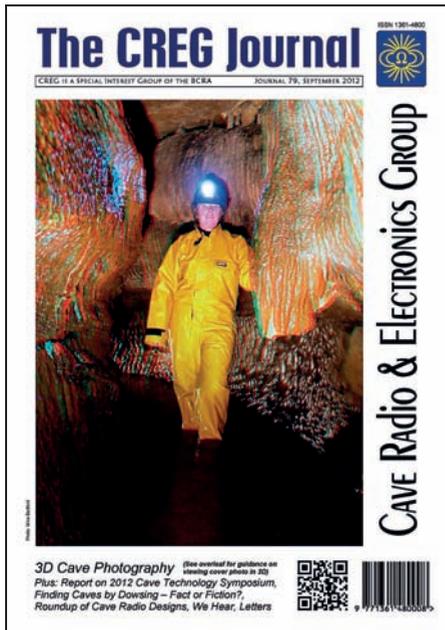
Pre-registrations for these Field Meetings are essential. Before booking, please read the detailed information that can be downloaded from bcra.org.uk/forum. Bookings to t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk by Friday 8 February.

Additionally, the **British Caving Library**, caving-library.org.uk, near to Buxton will be open on Sunday 10 March by prior arrangement with Jenny Potts j.potts@bcra.org.uk. It should be possible to attend both the Nottingham meeting in the morning and the BCL Open Day in the afternoon.

CREG Journal Online

The CREG journal is now available online and can be accessed in a similar fashion to Cave & Karst Science using your BCRA user-id and access code. If you are not a BCRA member you can purchase a user-id for the CREG journal online for just £4/year. The most recent journal to be published is #79, and all issues from now on will be placed online. We are in the process of digitising the back issues, but they will not be ready for a few months.

- CREG journal online: bcra.org.uk/cregj
- General Information: bcra.org.uk/online
- CREG subscriptions: creg.org.uk/renew



CREG journal 79 includes an article by Mike Bedford about 3D cave photography. The cover shows a colour 'anaglyph' that can be viewed with red-cyan glasses. In an interesting adaptation of the technique, Mike has adjusted the left and right images so that they align in the plane of the cover, to avoid this central part of the image having any red or cyan cast.

Cave Surveying Competition

Kevin Dixon and the BCRA Cave Surveying Group are intending to organise a new competition at Hidden Earth in September. Surveys displayed in the exhibition hall will be judged by a panel of experts and prizes awarded. Info. later in the Spring at hidden-earth.org.uk

BCRA Archives

Our new archive web site, at archives.bcra.org.uk now has seven photograph albums of the Rev. William Paul Black, which relate to his caving exploits in the 1930's and early 1940's together with the 'Netherworld' chapter from his privately published book *Life of a 20th Century Parish Priest*. Thanks are due to John Gardner for his work on this Archives site.

The photograph albums, comprising over 160 monochrome photos of superb quality, showing caves throughout the UK and Ireland, may be inspected at the British Caving Library, caving-library.org.uk. Our Archives web site also contains scans of Eli Simpson's Gaping Gill record book, compiled by him in the early days of the BSA. This is a trial scan performed by the British Geological Survey (BGS) to determine how long it will take to scan the full collection of one hundred record books. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to cover the cost of scanning these record books, is under consideration by BCRA.

Digitisation of Cave & Karst Science

Our second archive project relates to the scanning of all our past issues of BCRA's 'transactions' journals, i.e. BCRA Transactions, Cave Science and Cave & Karst Science. The bulk of this work was done, using a professional document scanner, by Bob McIntosh. Thanks to these volunteers the task is almost complete, with 2 GB of material now online.

You can find the scans in our *cloud storage* at cavescience-cloud.bcra.org.uk. At present, there is no index, and the file names are not obvious, so please email David Gibson, d.gibson@bcra.org.uk for assistance. An index will be online soon, but what we really need now is a volunteer to prepare *contents lists*, which will be a monumental job. If you can offer to do this, or if you have any alternative indexing suggestions that you are prepared to carry out yourself, do let us know.

We would also greatly appreciate a volunteer who can help us to put back-issues of Speleology online. The main task is, as above, the compilation of the contents lists. There is also a relatively small amount of PDF editing to do.

Cave Technology Symposium 2013



Surveying
Data Logging
Communications
Digging
Cave Detection
Photography
Lighting
Explosives

Talks and demonstrations are invited on any area of cave technology. For info, sign up to the **tech-sym** mailing list at list.bcra.org.uk. Enquiries and offers of talks to tech-sym@bcra.org.uk

Talks: 09:00–17:00 Saturday 20 April
at Tretower Village Hall, Tretower, CRICKHOWELL, NP8 1RF
Free entry to BCRA members and speakers, others £5.00

Practical sessions: 10:00 Sunday 21 April
at Whitewalls (Chelsea Spelaeological Society headquarters)
Hillside, Llangattock, CRICKHOWELL, NP8 1LG

Accommodation (which must be pre-booked) is at Whitewalls
Call 01495 321569 (day), 01874 730527 (eve.) or 07740 871845

Digital Reprints

If you prefer paper, most of our 'transactions' journals are still in stock. Items over ten years old are free, but we suggest a donation of £1 per issue, plus postage of course. A few items are out of stock but we have recently been experimenting with a digital 'print-on-demand' service and, thanks to a scan done for us by Andrew Brander, *Cave Science* 18(1) is now back in print. This was an issue published in 1991, focussing on Peak and Speedwell Caverns. The digital reprint is £4.00 (-20% for BCRA members) plus £1.50 postage, and the scan is also available as a free download from cavescience-cloud.bcra.org.uk/2_CaveScience with file name **ckc032.pdf**.

Science Citation Index

Still on the theme of publications, it was disappointing that we failed in our bid to be listed in the Science Citation Index, and we will be applying again as soon as the rules allow. The situation does highlight the fact that we need to keep up the quantity of good-quality papers for C&KS, and we need scientists to cite the papers that we publish!

BCRA Publications

The first volume of **Limestone and Caves of the Yorkshire Dales** is close to publication – to order a copy, see the inside back cover of this newsletter. Volume two, to be published next year, will contain chapters on the larger and more important cave systems in each dale and fell across the region's karst. Also in 2013 we are hoping to publish a book on **biospeleology** by Graham Proudlove.

Ordering publications from BCRA has not been the most straightforward task, but our online shop, bcra.org.uk/bookshop is expected to be open for business very soon. It is now some time since we realised that the web site needed a facelift and we are expecting this to be completed in the summer too.

C&KS 39(2) was mailed in August 2012 and is online at bcra.org.uk/cks. C&KS 39(3) is running slightly late but should be published in Jan. 2013. *Speleology* 19 is expected 'soon'. We apologise for the delay. It is a problem that we are actively seeking to address.

Eli Simpson films

In summer 2012 Sid Perou completed his two films about Eli Simpson, which were shown at Hidden Earth 2012. The first film is about the life of Eli Simpson and the early years of the BSA, Britain's first national caving body. This film includes a number of interviews with cavers who remember those early years. The second film is based on the Simpson footage shot in 1954 and covers the caving techniques in those early days. For information about these films – available on DVD – please contact d.checkley@bcra.org.uk.

The Audio Archive

The Caving Audio Archive is still being expanded, due to the efforts of Sid Perou, John Gardner and Martin 'Basher' Baines. It can be reached from the library home page at caving-library.org.uk. If you haven't listened to some of the brilliant tales, from famous cavers, you have really missed something.

The British Caving Library

Due to the hard work of Jenny and Boyd Potts and Mary Wilde, the library is making great progress. All the material is now in one place at Glutton Bridge, close to Buxton. The online catalogue is filling thanks to Martin Laverty and the use of the library is increasing. BCRA is also very grateful for the continuing financial support of BCA, which helps to pay for the rent of the property and the librarian's wages. This is Britain's biggest caving library, available for all to use. It is now also receiving acclaim from outside the UK, and receives a number of overseas visitors who are comparing it very favourably to libraries in their own countries.

Archeology Special Interest Group

BCRA's newest special interest group, the Cave Archaeology Group (CAG), which promotes an interest and understanding of archaeology in and around caves, is now a year old. To remind those who are not aware of the group, the web site is cag.bcra.org.uk. John Howard (j.howard@bcra.org.uk) is the CAG co-ordinator. His contact details are at bcra.org.uk/contact.html. SIG info is at bcra.org.uk/sig

Membership Questionnaire

Dave Checkley writes: In the last newsletter (December 2011) I mentioned BCRA Council's thanks to the members who replied to the membership survey. Here is a summary of our analysis of the results.

Over half the BCRA members filled in the questionnaire and the results have been very interesting and useful for Council. We now know that our members are experienced cavers, with the majority having had an interest in caves for over twenty years. They are also loyal supporters of BCRA, with sixty percent having been members for over eleven years. The average membership age is quite old, but they are generally active and cave at least once a month. The maturity of our members isn't a problem as such, but the almost total lack of members under thirty is a wake-up call for Council. We are now trying to encourage younger members.

What keeps the vast majority of our supporters with us appears to be that we encourage the study of caves. This is the objective of the charity and it seems that the many ways that we are promoting this are supported by our members. Virtually all the respondents rated highly the publication of our flagship journal, Cave and Karst Science. Support is high for Speleology, the Cave Studies Series, the Science Symposium, the field meetings, Hidden Earth, the library, the archive, the research fund and the promotion of amateur cave science. The amateur side of support is important since only a third of our members come from a relevant academic background.

A further wake-up call relates to our online presence. We clearly need to promote our web sites, so that more of our members look at them. We also need to make them more interesting and attractive, so that they are rated more highly by our supporters. All these points have been valuable learning for Council and we would like to say a big thank-you to all who took the time and trouble to fill in the questionnaire. A full analysis will appear in Speleology in due course. Those respondents who offered to help should have heard from us by now. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dave Checkley, Chairman

Speleo Abstracts is an annual compilation of the world's speleological literature, published by the UIS in Switzerland. About 4000 titles are included every year, which cover a broad range of subjects.

If your club produces a journal, we would ask you to consider providing an electronic copy of the contents page and to send this for cataloguing to Gina Moseley, g.moseley@bcra.org.uk.

Gina would like to keep in touch on a more regular basis with the clubs. It would be appreciated if club secretaries or librarians could take the time to send her an email introducing yourself so she can put you on her mailing list.

Council News

Council Members

Chris Smith has stood down from Council and, in his place from 1 Jan 2013, is Ian Peachey. This means that Council now comprises...

John Gunn	President (re-appointed for 2013–2015)
Dave Checkley	Chairman
Dave Gough	Treasurer
David Gibson	Secretary
Andrew Chamberlain	
Andrew Eavis	<i>Co-opted BCA Chairman</i>
Trevor Faulkner	Foreign Secretary
David Judson	Archivist, Cave Studies Editor
Gina Moseley	Speleo Abstracts co-ordinator
Ian Peachey	
Jenny Potts	Library co-ordinator

Membership Fees

BCRA is increasing its membership fee for 2013. This is largely due to the increased postage cost for Cave & Karst Science. Even with a subsidy from our reserves of some £2000, it is necessary to put the basic fee up from £20 to £22. Non-member subscribers will see the fee rise from £24 to £28. On the other hand, if you opt-out of receiving the paper edition, your subscription will remain unchanged at £12, and if you are a full-time student your membership fee will be zero. (You still need to pay your BCA fee, of course, but BCA is now offering a student discount of 50% to DIM members).

Change of date for 2014 AGM

BCRA Council has wondered for some time whether Hidden Earth is the best place for us to hold our AGM. In 2012, our AGM was not quorate although, fortunately, due to the cunning way our constitution is worded, the lack of an AGM quorum does not materially affect our operations. However, it does demonstrate that we are not engaging with our members and we think that we will achieve a higher attendance by holding our AGM at the Cave Science Symposium in March. We want to give our members plenty of notice of this change, so please note that although the 2013 AGM will be at Hidden Earth 'as usual', the 2014 AGM is likely to be at the Cave Science Symposium in March 2014.

*Newsheet written by David Gibson and Dave Checkley.
Edited and laid-out by David Gibson.*

@BCRA

Please note that this is a list of *contact* addresses, rather than a list of officers and the posts they hold. If you need further information, please contact the secretary. BCRA officers can usually be reached by e-mail with an address of the form **initial.surname@bcra.org.uk**. Contact addresses are also listed on our web site at **bcra.org.uk**, which contains information about BCRA and links to information about BCA. In the list below, ❖ denotes changes to the information printed in BCA newsletter 15, December 2011.

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Order online at [bcra.org.uk / bookshop](http://bcra.org.uk/bookshop)

* Cheques should be made payable to **British Cave Research Association**, and sent to BCRA, Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG. BCRA is UK Registered Charity 267828

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Edited by Tony Waltham and David Lowe

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