

BCRA NEWS

September 2014

AGM agenda on page 6



BRITISH CAVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG ♦ bcra.org.uk ♦ UK Reg. Charity No. 267828

Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales: Volume 2

Two chapters of Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales: Volume 2 are now on the BCRA web site at bcra.org.uk/dales where they are available as a PDF download. You will need the user-id given on your membership card. Non-members can purchase a user-id.

The two chapters now available are Caves of Ingleborough and Caves of Wharfedale and Littondale (the latter after some delay necessitated by recent discoveries in Boreham Cave).

Further chapters will follow during the next two years. A printed volume will be published when all the chapters are completed; the target date is late 2015. A significant benefit of producing the individual chapters in electronic format is that

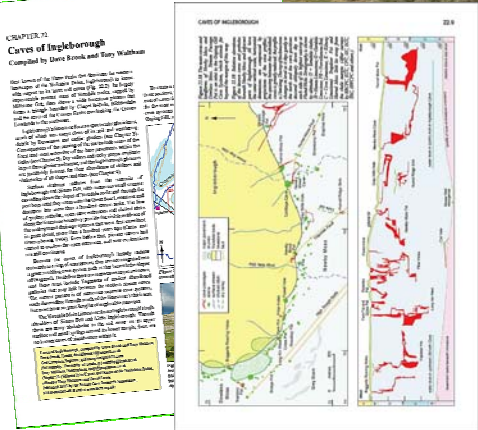
they can be updated, corrected and improved as new explorations render parts of the text out-of-date. There may also be better photographs by cavers not directly known to the editors, who would therefore welcome any offered images. The reward for providing a photograph for the book is only the glory of a credit line, but it would be good to include some of the excellent work by the new generation of very talented cave photographers.

The editors therefore invite corrections, updates and new photos and thank the authors and contributors who are making this work possible.

Tony Waltham and Dave Lowe
tony@geophotos.co.uk



Photo: Dave Checkley



Forthcoming Meetings

1 November 2014. CREG field meeting. Ingleton

For details, please sign up to the CREG-announce list at list.bcra.org.uk or keep an eye on the CREG forum at [bcra.org.uk / cregf](http://bcra.org.uk/cregf)

20-26 June 2015. International Symposium on Karst Hydrogeology

This will take place at the University of Birmingham and will be coordinated by Prof. John Gunn, with support from BCRA. It is possible that a field trip will be arranged to coincide with this meeting.

June 2015. BCA AGM and party weekend.

Details to be announced but, if previous events are anything to go by, this will involve field trips and meetings, with camping, breakfast, bar and disco laid on.

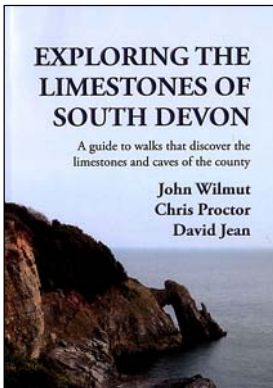
September 2015. National Caving Conference, Hidden Earth

Details to be announced.

31 October 2015. Science Symposium and AGM at the Manchester Museum.

The symposium will be hosted by Andrew Chamberlain and Graham Proudlove. Details to be announced. It is possible that a field meeting will be arranged for the Sunday (1 November) to a local location of interest.

Exploring the Limestones of South Devon



This new book, from **William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust**, was launched at their joint field meeting with BCRA earlier this year. It is written in a similar style to our Cave Studies booklets; A5 in format, with 126 pages in full colour. It is available from WPCST and also from BCRA, where

the price is £8.00 plus £1.50 UK postage. There is a 20% discount on the cover price for BCRA members. The book will be available on the BCRA stand at Hidden Earth.

It may not yet be shown on our web site *[because I havent got round to it yet – DG]* so, to order a copy, please go to [bcra.org.uk / bookshop / misc.html](http://bcra.org.uk/bookshop/misc.html) and follow the instructions.

Cave Surveying Competitions at Hidden Earth

Cave Survey Salon and Competition

Any cave survey produced in the last 12 months will be eligible for this competition, provided it is of a UK cave or of an overseas cave that was explored and surveyed by a predominantly UK-based expedition team. Entries will be judged by a ballot of conference delegates and prizes awarded to the entries achieving the highest number of votes.

*The winning Salon entry displayed at the conference will be awarded a prize of a X310 Disto rugged laser measure donated by **Leica Geosystems.***

Closed Loop Surveying Contest

We will also be running our traditional Closed Loop Survey Contest. Contestants, working in pairs, are required to survey a short, undulating course outside the conference building. The survey data will be processed on a computer and the winners will be the pair who manage the loop with the smallest misclosure error. To participate, please ask for an information sheet at the conference reception desk.

Exploring the Limestone Landscapes of the Cumbrian Ring

The latest title in BCRA's Cave Studies Series will be launched early in 2015. Written by Phil Murphy, it will describe one of the most beautiful but possibly least-explored tracts of land in England. It is not a region, nor even an easily defined area, but a ring of land that completely surrounds the well-known tourist honeypot of the Lake District. Most visitors to Lake District will have passed through this ring of land and noticed one or other of the more prominent limestone features that will be described in this booklet.

We hope to be able to announce the launch of this booklet early in 2015.

BCRA / Hidden Earth Cave Science Bursaries

We reported in the newsletter of August 2013 and in *Speleology* 19, that we were replacing our annual award for Young Scientist of the Year with a bursary scheme that would provide annual undergraduate research bursaries of typically £500 to help students with expenses associated with research for their honours dissertation. This scheme is made possible by a donation from the national caving conference, Hidden Earth. To remind everybody, details of the scheme are as follows...

Objective: To promote cave science by encouraging undergraduate cavers to undertake dissertation research in caves.

Type of research: The project must be undertaken in a wild (non-commercial) cave. Every year there are many dissertations in tourist caves, with most being undertaken by non-cavers who have no real interest in caves. Bursaries would not be awarded for research of this type – there has to be a clear commitment to caving. Projects can be within any area of cave science but the topic must have been approved by the applicant's academic supervisor. BCRA can offer support to undergraduates in departments where there is no academic staff member with caving knowledge.

Who may apply: Individual applicants must be cavers who are members of their university caving club (or a local caving club if there is no university club). They will be expected to be members of BCRA.

Nature of award: We will award bursaries of around £500 (exceptionally up to £750). The student will need to make the case for what the award will be spent on – and this can include travel to the research area. We are expecting that some proportion of the award will be retained until the student has completed his work, has given an oral presentation at the Hidden Earth conference and has deposited a copy of the dissertation in the British Caving Library.

For further information please contact BCRA's research fund administrator, John Gunn, j.gunn@bcra.org.uk.

Open Access to Cave and Karst Science Online

The scheme we announced last September has been implemented, and access to Cave and Karst Science Online is now free to everybody, not just to BCRA members. When you try to download a paper you will be asked to log in or to purchase a user-id. Non-members should then select the option to be sent a **free monthly id**, but please note that this *only* gives access to Cave and Karst Science. For access to *Speleology*, the CREG journal and the Yorkshire Dales book, non-members still need to purchase an id, currently £8/month or £30/year. These options are offered when you attempt a download.

Keeping in Touch

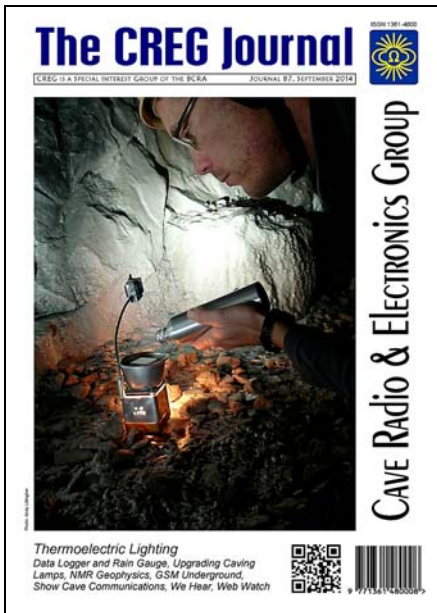
As you will have noticed, newsletters appear only sporadically. The best way for you to keep track of what we're doing is for you to sign-up to receive BCRA information by email via our Notices e-List. You can do this on-line, at bcra.org.uk/news, or you can send a blank email message to notices-subscribe@list.bcra.org.uk.

If you need to check whether your name is still on the list, (e.g. if you have changed your email address, or if you are not sure that the subscription process worked) just send another subscription request.

You can also check the BCRA News Forum at bcra.org.uk/forum. Anyone can read this forum, but if you wish to *post* a message you must register first.

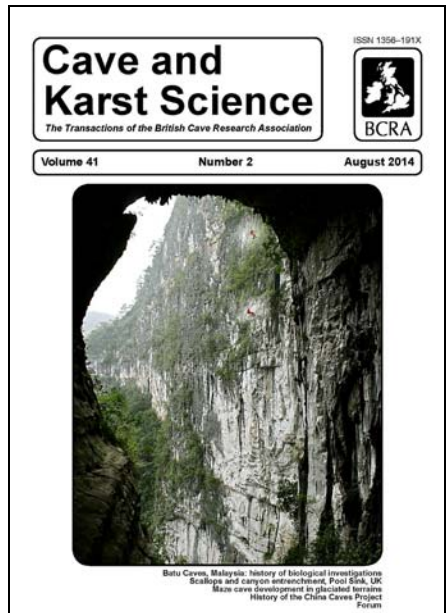
The BCA Forum at british-caving.org.uk/phpBB3/index.php comprises nearly 20 public boards. Even the most visited ones – BCRA's News Forum (mentioned above), Hidden Earth, BCA Web Services and the CREG Forum – receive only sporadic traffic, so it can be a nuisance to have to remember to take a look from time to time, to see if there have been any postings. The **BCA Forum Scanner** does this job for you automatically.

The **BCA Forum Scanner** checks the entire Forum every hour and will notify you by email should any of the forums receive a posting. To use this facility, you need to subscribe to the BCA-Forum-Scanner Mailing List at list.bcra.org.uk. The forum scanner software posts the results of its scans to that list, which will then mail the messages to the subscribers. As with all mailing lists, you are responsible for maintaining your own subscription.



CREG Journal 87: The cover shows the 'ooLiTE' in operation: This LED light is powered by the heat from a small cooking stove – no batteries required! The CREG Journal is available online at [bcra.org.uk / cregj](http://bcra.org.uk/cregj) – free to members or £4/year to non-members.

[photo: Andy Lillington].



Cave and Karst Science 41(2): The cover picture shows two cavers descending by rope into Dashiwei Tiankeng, viewed from the mouth of Mafeng Dong, a short cave that breaks out into the wall of the tiankeng. C&KS is available online at [bcra.org.uk / cks](http://bcra.org.uk/cks). Access is free.

[photo: Joyce Harrison]



Speleology

◀ **Speleology 19:** The cover shows some of the winning photos in the BCRA Photo Salon at Hidden Earth 2013. Inside, the magazine features more of the winning photos. Speleology is not yet online, although there are plans to make it available by the end of the year.

The most recent issue of Speleology was published in February 2014 (with a cover date of December 2013). We have been looking at ways to get it back into regular production. David Gibson took over as editor for issue 19 and is now assisted by Hugh Penney, but it is a very time-consuming task and it is difficult to keep up the momentum in a volunteer-based organisation. All contributions to the magazine are greatly valued, and there will be another issue before too long. However, some serious discussion needs to take place as to whether Speleology can and should be a part of BCRA's (and indeed BCA's) membership packages. Post your views to [bcra.org.uk / forum](http://bcra.org.uk/forum)

David Gibson

Annual General Meeting

Last year we gave advance notice of the moving of our AGM from Hidden Earth to an autumn-based Cave Science Symposium. Please see the AGM notice on page 6.

Council's report and accounts are on our web site at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2014](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2014) together with the draft minutes of last year's AGM.

Attached to the minutes are two brief reports that Council was asked to prepare – Trevor Faulkner outlines Council's response to the request for "some sort of science prize" and David Gibson outlines Council's response to the request to look at membership fees and a method of reducing the cost of BCRA membership.

If you will be attending the AGM, please remember to bring your membership card with you (that's the gold-coloured BCRA card, not your BCA card). There will be a short break in the symposium immediately before the AGM, to allow the admission of anybody who is waiting to attend the AGM, but who is not already in the room.

Elections to Council

BCRA Council members do not serve a fixed term, and are subject to re-election every year. Nominations for 2015 should be made by the end of September. Please note that the election does not take place at the AGM. A postal ballot of all members will be undertaken later in the year, if required. Council currently comprises...

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

Andrew Chamberlain and Gina Moseley have decided to step down from Council, although both

will be continuing with their other roles – Andrew is a member of our research fund awards panel; Gina compiles our entries for Speleo Abstracts and will be involved in organising future meetings.

At the time of writing, several other Council members have not confirmed their intentions for 2015, so it is likely that there will be a number of vacancies. Anyone interested in becoming a trustee and sitting on Council should get in touch. Please note, though, that there are other ways you can significantly assist BCRA. If you have a project you would like to pursue, or you feel like offering to organise a field trip or a meeting, please do get in touch.

Membership Fees

Our offer to full-time undergraduate students will be carried forward to 2015. That is, you can still benefit from free membership of BCRA, although you need to pay your BCA fee. BCA now offers a student discount of 50% to DIM members. This means students can join BCRA for just £16.

Hidden Earth 2014

hidden-earth.org.uk

National Caving Conference and Exhibition
26-28 September 2014
Leek High School, Leek, Staffordshire



Attention – all Caving Clubs

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 will compile this for **Speleo Abstracts**, which is an annual compilation of the world's speleological literature, published in Switzerland, by the UIS. About 4,000 titles are included every year, which cover a broad range of subjects. Gina would like to keep in touch on a more

regular basis with UK Caving 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.

If your club provides accommodation or if there is anything else you would like to advertise to BCA members, please contact David Gibson at speleology@bcra.org.uk and ask about placing a free advert in the next issue of Speleology.

Subscribing to C and KS on paper

If you are a full-time undergraduate student or you want to receive Speleology in addition to Cave and Karst Science, then the cheapest option is for you to join BCRA). For students, this means the £16 fee described above under "membership fees". If you are not a student and you do not want Speleology, then the cheapest option is for you to subscribe to C&KS as a non-member of BCRA, which will cost £28. Alternatively, if you do not want to receive C&KS on paper, online access is free.

BCRA



BRITISH CAVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

BCRA Annual General Meeting 2014

Notice is hereby given that the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the British Cave Research Association will be held on Saturday 25 October 2014 at 12:00 during the BCRA Cave Science Symposium at the University of Birmingham (at The Undercroft; School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences). Members shall be required to show their membership cards or provide proof of identity if requested.

Details of the venue will be posted to the BCRA News Forum in advance of the meeting. Please contact the secretary for further information. There will be a short break in the symposium immediately before the AGM, to allow the admission of anybody who is waiting to attend the AGM, but who is not already in the room.

Agenda

The Chairman will first establish a quorum.

1. Appointment of a recorder
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve the minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 28 September 2013
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. Chairman's report
6. Council's report for 2013, published at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2014](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2014), and available on paper at the meeting
7. Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2013, published at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2014](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2014), and available on paper at the meeting
8. Any motions received by the secretary by 4 October 2014
9. Any other business accepted by the chairman

Please note that the Council Report for 2013, and Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2013 have been published at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2014](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2014), and will also be available on paper at the AGM. Members may request a paper copy to be sent by post in advance of the meeting.

David Gibson, Secretary
bcra-secretary@bcra.org.uk

Motions to be proposed at AGM 2014

Notices for motions to be proposed at the 2014 AGM must be in the hands of the Secretary, **David Gibson**, 12 Well House Drive, LEEDS, LS8 4BX, in writing, no later than **4 October 2014**. Motions must be proposed and seconded by voting members of the Association and the notice must be signed by both. Please note that motions from the floor are not permitted. In the event of any motions being received after the postal notice of the AGM has been issued, such motions will be made available on the web site at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2014](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2014) and an announcement will be made on the Notices mailing list (see list.bcra.org.uk).

Nominations for Officers and Members of Council for 2015

Please note that the election of officers for 2015 does not take place at the AGM. If necessary a postal ballot of all members will be undertaken later in the year. For members' information, nominations for all positions on the Council for 2015 must be made in writing to the secretary to reach him no later than 30 September 2014. All such nominations must be proposed and seconded by voting members (as defined in sub-clause E4 of the Constitution). The nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder and be accompanied by the nominee's signed consent.

@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 17, August 2013.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP INFO ✦ caves.org.uk/payments/bca
MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES membership@bcra.org.uk
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SK17 8RG. 01298 873810 (fax 873801)

SALES (Katie Eavis) publications-sales@bcra.org.uk
OTHER ENQUIRIES bcra-enquiries@bcra.org.uk
REGISTERED OFFICE (UK registered charity, number 267828)
The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG

HONORARY OFFICERS

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John Gunn. *For address, see Cave and Karst Science, below.*

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SECRETARY bcra-secretary@bcra.org.uk
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LIBRARY OPERATIONS

FOREIGN SECRETARY foreign-secretary@bcra.org.uk
For information about journal exchanges and international liaison:
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LIBRARIAN & DEPOSITS bcra-librarian@bcra.org.uk
For enquiries about consulting items in the library: Mary Wilde,
c/o Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG

LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR j.potts@bcra.org.uk
For enquiries about volunteering for library duties: Jenny Potts
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EMERGENCY FUND
Jenny Potts – *see under Library, above.*

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EXPLOSIVES USERS SIG n.williams@bcra.org.uk
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SCIENCE MEETING ENQUIRIES t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk
See under Foreign Secretary

INTERNET

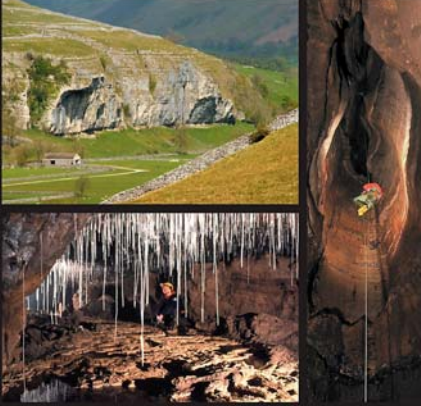
WEB SITE EDITOR webmaster@bcra.org.uk
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MAILING LISTS ✦ list.bcra.org.uk
WEB FORUM ✦ bcra.org.uk/forum

TRUSTEES / COUNCIL MEMBERS

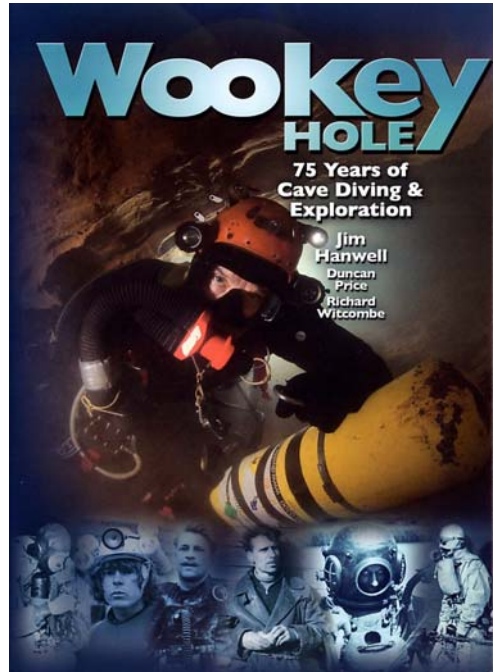
A. Chamberlain, D. Checkley, A. Eavis, T. Faulkner, D. Gibson,
D. Gough, J. Gunn, P. Hardwick, D. Judson, G. Moseley,
I. Peachey, J. Potts



Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales



Edited by Tony Waltham and David Lowe
Volume 1
for the British Cave Research Association



Both books are on sale on the BCRA stand in the Hidden Earth Exhibition Hall for £20 each

Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales

£25

Volume 1 of this popular book is still available in print with a 20% discount to BCRA members. The book is for sale on our stand at Hidden Earth for **£20** to all customers.

Volume 2 will be serialised online at [bcra.org.uk / dales](http://bcra.org.uk/dales) – the first two chapters, (Caves of Ingleborough, Caves of Wharfedale & Littondale) are online now, with more to follow in 2014-15.

How to Order

Both books are £25, with a 20% discount to BCRA members *when ordered online*. Postage is free to the UK. Postal rates outside the UK are given in the online order form

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

To order by post, please send a cheque for £25 per item, made payable to British Cave Research Association, to
**BCRA, Old Methodist Chapel,
Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG**

Wookey Hole – 75 Years of Cave Diving & Exploration

£25

This book was published by the Cave Diving Group with financial assistance from BCRA. You can now purchase this from our web site and, like the Yorkshire Dales book, there is a 20% discount for BCRA members, and it is postage free to UK addresses. This book is on available on our stand at Hidden Earth for **£20** to all customers.

Since the Middle Ages, visitors from all over Britain and beyond have been drawn to the magnificent cave system at Wookey Hole in Somerset where the River Axe flows through a series of grand chambers before emerging at the head of a rocky ravine. For the last 75 years, ever increasing numbers of tourists have been joined by an adventurous band of cave divers whose aim has been to explore the subterranean Axe and follow the river ever deeper into the Mendip Hills towards the feeder swallets on the plateau above. This book chronicles the saga of exploration from the hard hat, lead-booted pioneers of the 1930s through the post-war "frogman" era to the high-tech, deep divers of the present generation. A story of triumph and occasional tragedy, it is told by the divers themselves and those who knew them well.