

The Dodger's Dispatch

interim

Ramblings from the Derbyshire
Caving Club
(established 1960)

March 2026

www.DerbysCC.org.uk



NEWS

This is just a brief interim newsletter, mainly to remind members about certain upcoming events and dates.

ANNUAL DINNER

We are returning to the more traditional annual dinner this year. The Bramhall Golf Club has been booked again for Saturday, 28th November. Contact Ed or Nigel for more details. Booking is now available on-line.

PAST MEMBERS

Tony Brocklebank, Chairman from 2009 to 2012, died this month. He was an active caver who took part in UK trips, digs, Matienzo expeditions and Mallorca caving holidays and also organised 50th year celebrations. Sadly, he became ill some 5 years ago but still managed to remain reasonably active raising money for charity. We have also lost Dave Shepley ("Sheps"), one-time tacklemaster. He was more interested in mining (he and Stan Gee worked Mouldridge Mine for a short time) and also engineered items for the Club such as the lid to Wood Mine. Most members will not remember these two but they both contributed greatly to the success of the Club in their time.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Quick reminder that subs fell due on 1st January. Deadline for payment is 31st March. You can pay on-line at <https://www.derbyscc.org.uk/subs>. This will also tell you how much you owe. There is a big jump in the BCA membership fee for cavers/miners which goes up from £24 to £32 so full membership will cost **£45** in 2026 (if we don't change the basic DCC subscription). Paying through PayPal costs us £1.36 for full subs so please pay by bank transfer if possible: go to <https://www.derbyscc.org.uk/subs> to find out more. There are still 29 unpaid members.

ALDERLEY EDGE

The monthly Wood Mine trips have continued to be successful (third Wednesday of the month now). We now have leaders for all trips and Alison is also leading some extra family trips in the summer. Thanks to all for responding. We also have leaders for all but two trips each day for the Open Weekend – a great response. Talking of which, don't forget to come and take part in the Open Weekend on 18th and 19th April. It's a good opportunity to meet members from near and afar and also a good social on the Saturday night. There is also going to be a National Trust archaeology day at Alderley on 18th July (probably); all welcome.

WEBSITE

Remember that all members have access to more information on our website (www.derbyscc.org.uk) than the general public. Have a word with the Webmaster if you are not sure how to get on to the site.

NEWSLETTER

This is only a brief summary, there will be a fuller newsletter in due course with trip reports. Please use the on-line log to leave reports or send them to the webmaster@derbyscc.org.uk and I will upload them. They can be typed, handwritten, telephoned, emailed but preferably not engraved on stone as our rockery is large enough already. Send newsletter items to Sam Roberts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meetings: 13 April, 1 June, 3 August, 5 October, 30 November (AGM) all at Alderley Edge Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 30 November starting at 7pm. Your chance to get on the Committee

Wednesday night public trips to Alderley Edge in 2026: 15 Apr, 20 May, 17 Jun, 15 Jul, 19 Aug, 16 Sept, 21 Oct, 18 Nov and 16 Dec

Open weekends: 18-19 April, 5-6 September

NAMHO Conference in Swaledale: 19-21 June

Caving and mining meets: refer to on-line Google calendar or Facebook

Hidden Earth: probably 26-27 September at Llangollen again – quite local for us.

Annual Dinner: 28 November 2026 at the Bramhall Golf Club

Remember, there is an events list on the Club website: www.derbyscc.org.uk/events