

# **COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

## **British Caving Association**

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**Officers and Meets Secretary Reports for 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Annual General Meeting**

### **Chairman's Report**

No report provided (may be added closer to the time, or a verbal report made at the meeting).

**Andrew Hinde – CNCC Chairman**

## Secretary's Report

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Tom Sykes, who passed away last year. Tom was the first Secretary of the CNCC (from 1963-1971) and presided not only over the setup of the Council, but over numerous access improvements during his several years in office. This was at a time when citing 'open access' was likely to see you at the wrong end of a gamekeeper's shotgun. I regret not having taken the opportunity to meet Tom in person, and that my learning of the magnitude of his pioneering efforts (from some recently discovered historical documents) came too late to have thanked him in person.

It has been another extremely eventful and productive year.

At the last AGM, attendees voted unanimously to support a suggestion by Simon Wilson to see us invest £3900 for the production of 650 IC anchors and to establish a new CNCC anchor scheme, with Simon as the Coordinator. This has progressed well, and the anchors are already being installed into caves. We have added some text to the website, as well as the recent newsletter, to provide some information for anyone interested in becoming an installer.

Due to Simon being the only trainer, resource is being prioritised to those who have a project in mind that will benefit other cavers. Approval of Damian Weare as a trainer is something I requested (as instructed) over a year ago, however, this can only be approved by the BCA E&T, who have not met for a long time. A meeting, under their new convenor, is scheduled soon.

This E&T meeting will also discuss how much the BCA will refund the CNCC for the cost of the anchors. We should get back at least ~£3.80/anchor (the cost of the BCA-preferred Bolt-Product anchors), however, we remain hopeful that the full cost will be reimbursed, given the large number of cavers from all over the UK likely to benefit from these anchors over the coming decades.

Work to establish an anchor monitoring system is still ongoing, nearly two years after this was first suggested. The first part of this is well underway; our Webmaster is working through all of our topos, numbering each anchor, to allow them to be individually referenced. Not a quick task! The next step will be to design a form that groups can use in caves to report on the condition of each anchor. I will happily take on the job of producing, distributing, and harassing cavers to participate in this, but decisions still need to be made as to what information these forms should collect.

This year has seen a discussion within the Committee about the possibility of changing the name of the CNCC; to something that perhaps indicates wider representation than just clubs; or something that sounds a little more modern. The decision was made not to change the name. A summary of discussions can be found in the July and October meeting minutes.

I am still working, albeit slowly, to put together a stall for Hidden Earth. I have always been conscious that the CNCC is the only Regional Council not to routinely do so. Since last Summer I have been starting to look at this more proactively. As part of the 'backbone' of the stall, I want to include a history/timeline of the CNCC showing all the key events, challenges and achievements since the Council was formed, as well as extensive coverage of our most recent work.

In the absence of any CNCC documents prior to 1992, I have spent many hours this year reading through past Descent magazines and other publications to try to piece this CNCC history together. However, in January, I acquired from Ric and Pat Halliwell two large boxes stuffed full of CNCC paperwork, that provided all the information I needed.

A few things struck me in this paperwork. The first folder I went through were entitled 'CNCC communications 1993'. Clearly, this was pre-internet and email. The Secretary (Les Sykes, who had recently taken over from Phil Parker) was receiving several letters each week, from people applying for membership, writing to ask what their nearest club was, asking for general information about caving, complaining about something (there was a lot of that), asking about cave access etc. Of course, this postal traffic has now been completely replaced by Google, the CNCC website, and the magic of email. Each one of these letters was replied to. As I look further back, to a time when the CNCC had over 150 member clubs, the amount of correspondence was absolutely staggering! It seems I have it quite easy by comparison!

Amongst these boxes were minutes and reports for every AGM dating back to 1964 (including the original hand-written attendance register and minutes from 1964, which presumably was the first AGM, when the Council was only one year old). I have taken advantage of the terrible weather over the past few weeks to scan all of these documents, and will upload them to the website soon. This will mean we will have a complete archive of AGM and SGM records for our entire history.

Furthermore, I also have original letters (and replies) sent by/to the first CNCC Officers in the early 1960s, trying to negotiate access to Leck, Casterton and Fountains Fells for the very first time, as well as pushing for the formation of the National Caving Association. They are fascinating reading; an insight into a pre-CRoW world where such places were seriously out of bounds. I am digitising these to ensure their preservation, as some of them are quite fragile one-off documents, and I believe they are important historical records. I will then package them up and send them to the British Caving Library. As these letters are personal correspondence I am not sure about the ethics of publishing them electronically (even 55 years on). Thoughts are welcome.

This year has seen a substantial move towards a more proactive attitude to cave access. This has been driven by Tim's excellent efforts, as you will see from his report. I agree that the course of action regarding Langcliffe Estate (Dale Head/Penyghent Pots) was the right one.

Continuing the theme, you will see in the agenda, a suggestion to extend a progressive attitude to other caves on CRoW land and adopt a 'assume no restrictions unless we know otherwise' approach. The CNCC website is full of caves on CRoW land which indicate a need to call at a house/farm (often miles away) for permission. This information is mostly extremely old, predates the CRoW act (and so represents a period where just crossing the land needed permission), and is likely to be incorrect today (due to changes to ownership details over the last two decades). I'm looking forward to discussing this at the AGM; I think it should be a very useful conversation.

The online cave booking system looks set to revolutionise managed cave access in our region, and Tim has done excellent work in demonstrating to the landowners the benefits that this offers. Gary has done an outstanding job developing the IT infrastructure for this, as will be demonstrated at the meeting. A full report is included in the recent (February) newsletter. My involvement has been

limited to putting together a 'guide document' for Ingham and Yorke (Ingleborough Estate land agents), plus a few hours testing the system here and there; it really does look excellent!

I am extremely thankful to Geoff Whittaker who has volunteered to be the system administrator for this; Geoff has become very well known to most clubs as the fastest permit-issuer in the northwest (five minutes or under sometimes)! We're delighted that Geoff is willing to help with this.

Since the last AGM I have published two more newsletters (#6, August 2017 and #7, February 2018). I have continued to use all means of communication to publicise the exciting developments this year (including the newsletter, Facebook, UKCaving and Descent).

I have continued to add, and revise/update the online cave descriptions. Since the last AGM, descriptions for Grange Rigg, Christmas Pot, Hagg Gill Pot, Hensler's Pot, Washfold Pot, FOUL Pot and some new routes in Ease Gill Caverns have been added, plus description such as Little Hull and Notts Pot have been revised for greater clarity and accuracy. Much of this is off the back of my own caving experience throughout the year, although I am pleased to say that a few other people have now started to submit descriptions, and formatting these is now on my 'to do' list. The download statistics that Gary has reported seem to suggest that it is all worthwhile. Gary has formatted and made available several new rigging topos that were provided to him by Sam Allshorn.

I'm grateful to Maz who has reinvigorated training under the CNCC name, following years of dormancy. The first aid course in January was appreciated by all attendees (see the report by Pete Monk in the February newsletter). The upcoming paperless surveying course looks like it should be popular. Maz has temporarily stepped back a bit from the role for health reasons, but I am pleased that she has stood again to enable her to continue as Training Officer as soon as she can. Thanks to John Holloway for picking up some of the work in the meantime.

Overall, it's been a great year; some of the biggest steps forward for cave access in decades (Fairy Holes, Dale Head/Penyghent, and the online booking system), and a new anchor scheme. We've seen efforts from numerous people to try to promote caving in our region. Things are changing rapidly, and for the better, thanks both to CNCC and individual efforts.

This is the first AGM in a long time where the number of clubs standing for Committee exceeds the number of vacancies. I would like to say now to whichever club does not get elected; do come along to the meetings and make your thoughts and ideas known. Like many bodies, the CNCC struggles to get participation, so your involvement, even if in a non-voting capacity is very much wanted. (The same message is true to ANYONE, club or individual, reading this wanting to get involved).

Finally, thanks to Tony Harrison for his efforts reported in the February newsletter, which has brought £2500 into CNCC funds; a very kind gesture indeed.

I am happy to continue as Secretary for a fifth year if you are not fed up of my very long reports.

**Matt Ewles – CNCC Secretary**

## Treasurer's Report

Following the agreement by the CNCC committee that the accounts should be verified by a volunteer CNCC member club, rather than pay the cost of an accountant, Craven PC have once again volunteered to verify the 2017 accounts for the 2018 AGM. The attached letter from Pat and Ric Halliwell verifies this report as accurate. The process is a little different from that of an auditor's report, in that it verifies, by inspection of bank statements, invoices, receipts and working spreadsheet that this report for the 2017 financial year is correct.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

#### INCOME:

<b>Balance from 2016</b>	<b>£2556.61</b>
2016 BCA Annual Funding Grant	£310.93*
Transfer from Business Premium Account	£3900.00
Mileage Expenses from Natural England	£1706.26 **
Donation (Natural England/Tony Harrison)	£2500.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **£8417.19**

#### EXPENSES:

Meetings (Room Hire)	£120.00	
Secretarial, postage & 'phone calls	£184.27	
A&C (Access and Conservation)	£74.32	
A&C Gauber Pot	£519.30	} **£1734.16
A&C Wilsons Tree Planting	£359.01	
A&C Hurnel Moss	£622.35	
A&C GG Track Repair	£233.50	
A&C Gt Douk Dig Capping	£303.75	
A&C Alum Pot	£244.35	
A&C Blood Cave	£145.80	
A&C Anchor Replacement Project	£4022.31	
Comms Eqpt Grant Swaledale MRT	£500.00	

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **£7328.96**

\*Payment by BCA of full amount claimed for 2016.

\*\*Amount received from Natural England regarding Gauber, Wilson's, Hurnel Moss and Gaping Gill travel claims. Minor discrepancies in amounts paid by NE for Wilson's, also error in Gt Douk volunteer mileage spreadsheet.

**Balance to 2018** **£3644.84**

# Craven Pothole Club

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21 January 2018

## CNCC Accounts 2017-18

Dear Pete

We have checked the bank statements, claims and receipts, summaries of cheques issued and payments received and after raising a small number of minor queries, which you have resolved entirely to our satisfaction, we are happy to state that all monies expended have been accurately accounted for. Similarly all income has been correctly recorded and the bank statements are in full agreement with the records of all transactions. We appreciate that there was a minor fault in one expenses claim but this is fully detailed in the paperwork.

Although we are in no way involved with CNCC Finances, apart from checking that there are no mistakes in the accounts, we do believe that CNCC needs to seek a way of increasing its income in future years.

With all best wishes



Dr RA Halliwell, Vice-President Craven Pothole Club  
Mrs PC Halliwell, Hon Librarian Craven Pothole Club

### CNCC BUSINESS CURRENT (COMMUNITY) ACCOUNT:

Balance 1st January 2017:	<b>£2556.61</b>
Interest received:	£0
Balance 30th December 2017:	<b>£3644.84</b>

### CNCC BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT:

Balance 31st December 2016:	<b>£18,400.69</b>
Interest received:	£9.45
Transfer to Community Account:	£3900.00
Balance 30th December 2016:	<b>£14,503.23</b>

**ASSETS:** Makita DPC6430 12" cutter, value new (2013) £576.00

I am prepared to stand as Treasurer for the next 12 months.

**Pete Bann – CNCC Treasurer**

## BCA Grant to Regional Councils: CNCC Claim 2017

The CNCC Treasurer will be submitting a claim to BCA for a total of **£480.90** plus the final agreed figure per bolt for the Anchor Replacement Project, comprised of the following budget heads:

### Sub Budget Head - **Meetings**

(Covers - photocopy, postage, room hire, stationary, phone bills, travel expenses of officers to meetings. Does not cover - travel expenses of members)

#### **Meetings: £179.13** Comprising:

Room Hire: £120.00

Photocopying, Postage and 'phone calls: £164.27

CNCC officers do not claim mileage.

### Sub Budget Head - **Conservation & Access**

(Covers - Negotiating access to caves and mines, gating of entrances, stabilising (and opening up of alternative safer) of entrances, working with landowner to maintain access, payment of "peppercorn" rents for access, other liaison and public relations work related to maintaining access and promoting conservation, travel expenses for meetings, photocopy, postage, stationary, phone bills. Does not cover digging as part of new exploration)

#### **Conservation & Access: £74.32** Comprising:

£14.32: Annual access agreement for Fairy Holes/Mongo Gill.

£60.00: Copies of Northern Caves distributed to John Hanley (Kingsdale) and Alan Middleton (Leck Fell House), as a thank you for their good will towards cavers.

£122.3: resin for installation of replacement bolts.

Also:

£3900.00: purchase of 650 bolts for the CNCC Anchor Scheme.

CNCC is awaiting confirmation of the final value of the BCA Grant for 2017 (currently £3.85/bolt).

### Sub Budget Head - **Insurance**

(Covers - Provision of Public Liability cover for all persons (including officers, members, volunteers and land owners & their employees) involved in activities on behalf of the RCC activities, public liability cover for land owner access agreements. Does not cover - insurance for clubs or individuals not undertaking authorised work on behalf of the RCC)

**No expenditure in 2017 under this budget head**

### Sub Budget Head - **Provision of Information**

(Covers - Production of "Regional" Circulars (regular or spasmodic) on access, Production of "Regional" Access Handbook (regular or spasmodic. **Does not cover** - Production of a "Regional" newsletter (regular or spasmodic), Production of Handbook (regular or spasmodic), Production or sponsoring of "Regional" (Area) Guide Book, Topo sheet, Bolting Guide etc, Participation in events to promote caving)

**No expenditure in 2017 under this budget head**

**Pete Bann – CNCC Treasurer**

## Conservation Officer's Report

Teams of CNCC Volunteers have been active during the year, with support from Natural England and from the Lottery Heritage-funded Stories in Stone project.

The entrance to the Great Douk dig in the bottom of the Great Douk pothole has been reinforced by a plastic tube, a job taking two days and requiring diversion of the stream following heavy rain the night before. This dig is on the route for the many novice cavers and naturalists who visit Great Douk cave.

Volunteers from Bradford Pothole Club, with support from CNCC, assisted Natural England in tree planting near the entrance to Wilsons Cave.

It is good to see the amount of independent conservation works being carried out by cavers in the region, a notable example being the splendid work by Buttered Badgers in removing the old water tank from the bottom of Alum Pot. CNCC is always ready to try to assist cavers with conservation projects – please get in touch if you think we could be useful.

The entrance to Penyghent Pot has been stabilized, thanks to the generosity of Mike Cooper from royalties from his book *Not for the Faint Hearted*, and additional funding from the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership (Stories in Stone).

The year ended on a quiet note. Natural England has revised its procedures, with more stringent risk assessments. New requirements are difficult to accommodate within or around a cave environment, and until a workable compromise is reached (which it is hoped will happen shortly), NE involvement in cave conservation work is not possible, one consequence being the temporary postponement of the Stories in Stone cave conservation strand. CNCC continues to support conservation work outside the Stories in Stone framework, and it is hoped that Stories in Stone work will recommence shortly.

New volunteers are always welcome, for weekend or weekday working parties. No specific skills are necessary, but if you have them, we will do our best to make use of them. On the job training is given as needed. Occasionally there may be the opportunity to attend a training course. Tools will be provided, but you are responsible for providing your own protective clothing - stout footwear, preferably with steel toe caps, stout gloves, weatherproof clothing, helmet. You will also need to provide your own packed lunch and hot drinks.

A link has been provided on the CNCC website to make it easier to register to be involved in future projects. If you'd like to be placed on the mailing list to be informed of future projects, please contact Kay Easton on [conservation@cnc.org.uk](mailto:conservation@cnc.org.uk), or use the link on the CNCC website.

**Kay Easton – CNCC Conservation Officer**

## Access Officer's Report

Greetings to all at CNCC, northern cavers and beyond.

My sincere apologies for absence but one of the few compulsory work events I have each year decided to choose the same date as our AGM. I would have liked to be present to answer any questions particularly on taking a more progressive attitude towards access to the caves in our area which was detailed in my report to the January meeting. However, I know that both Matt and Andrew are perfectly capable of explaining any of the issues that I have been involved in.

Although a lot has happened this last year I can keep my report brief. This is mainly due to the excellent CNCC newsletter where much of my efforts have already been reported. I think it is a further sign that our region's caving is in a good place at the moment. A huge thanks to Matt for all his efforts with this and other aspects of the council.

As far as access is concerned, all seems to be moving in the right direction. This year I have concentrated mainly on the big 'caving' estates and in particular moving towards the proposed calendar based on-line cave booking system which is open to all instead of the restricted paper permit arrangement. My role has been to initiate, seek landowner support, outline the requirements of the system and progress the scheme. Huge thanks are due to Gary for the time commitment and expertise he has put into developing a professional working system. This has been crucial to our success so far. At present we are undergoing 'live' trials of the system on the Ingleborough Estate and my hopes are that by next year's AGM the system will be in common use across Leck and Casterton fells, as well as Ingleborough. When the time is right, perhaps in a few months, we are going to need the help of all clubs and northern cavers to publicise the scheme and give it our support.

On the Langcliffe Estate, we have struggled in recent years with any form of meaningful communication. The recent action regarding access, taken by the Committee, is the correct one in my opinion. I have already established a better relationship and have a meeting planned for the future. I will report on this to future Committee meetings, but I do not anticipate any further difficulties.

A number of smaller access queries have been dealt with over the year without much fuss and I am always on the lookout to improve access and promote caving more generally.

Throughout the year I have engaged with the National Park who are generally most supportive. I attended the YDNP Management Plan forum where I hope previous pestering will pay off and the new plan will see 'a raising of the profile of the underground environment and the encouragement of participation' written into it. This is likely to see a focus on better interpretation and education of the non-caving visitor but should help to improve the perception of caving in the eyes of the public in the longer term.

I was fortunate to be able to get Dales caving into a Sunday Times article and this year's edition of the Visitor. I also wrote an article for the Yorkshire Dales Review, the gist of which I used when invited to introduce the Kendal Mountain Festival's Underground Session. I was also pleased to note that the Friends of the Dales (who produce the magazine) stated that they are "very supportive of

efforts to improve access to caves and will continue to help campaign to make this happen". It is very reassuring to have such respected support for our efforts.

I am still working on getting two interpretation boards on the Three Counties System in place. The exasperating process is ongoing and is already in the second year. There is just one obstacle to overcome and I am confident we will succeed in the end.

As a BCA contact for the Sports & Recreation Alliance I recently highlighted a 'Webinar' they were running on "top tips for creating your vision and mission". Our forward-thinking Chairman was the only one to show any interest. As Access Officer, my vision is to reduce the significance of the access role within the Dales. I'd like us to spend more time promoting the cave related benefits to our area, on maintaining entrances, anchors and on conservation initiatives, in forging good relationships with all the stakeholders, keeping clubs healthy and working for the benefit of all cavers, encouraging good practice and facilitating training and more. It is a positive progressive approach which encourages participation. I am delighted to hear that we have more applicants for the Committee than we have places. It is a good sign – who wouldn't want to be part of it?

I'm happy to stand for another year if you'll have me.

Good caving.

**Tim Allen – CNCC Access Officer**

#### **Training Officer's Report**

**Note from Secretary:** Our Training Officer is currently taking a little time out for health reasons (hence no report), but if re-elected, hopes to return to the role as soon as possible. On behalf of all in the CNCC, we wish Maz a speedy recovery and thanks for the top-notch efforts this year.

#### **Anchor Coordinator's Report**

There was a drop-off in the rate of installations around the middle of 2017 but now things are progressing quite satisfactorily. Mark Sims and Gary Douthwaite have become installers. 10 anchors have been installed in Pippikin Pot and that project is now completed. 7 have been installed in Quaking Pot and 8 in Pasture Gill Pot and those two projects are in progress. The total number of IC anchors installed is now 355.

Since I reported replacing loose anchors in Sell Gill in October 2017 no loose anchors have been replaced. This is because there is doubt about placing anchors in oversized holes. I intend to investigate using a different type of resin when placing anchors in oversized holes.

A date has not yet been set for the next E&T committee meeting.

**Simon Wilson – CNCC Anchor Coordinator**

## Webmaster's Report

Aside from general maintenance there have been no significant changes to the CNCC public website however lots of work has been going on behind the scenes in the preparation and testing of the online booking system.

Work on the booking system has been on-going for several months with consultation from Tim Allen and Geoff Whitaker. The service has not gone into phase one testing with a handful of volunteers who will be using it to make bookings from now on instead of the usual permit system. Geoff is managing this alongside the usual system which is continuing as normal. Once I have feedback from the testers and any issues sorted out it will be opened up to all cavers subject to the land agent being happy.

### Site Security

As part of the booking system the website is now secured with an SSL certificate to help protect user data. Several web browsers now give a warning on any login pages if the site is not secure, so this measure is quite important. The certificate is provided by GeoTrust at a cost of around £30 per year, however this will no longer be payable as the site will move to Let's Encrypt from next year which is free.

### Email Upgrades

In order to help ensure that emails are delivered to members, one of the email accounts has been upgraded to the Office 365 infrastructure on Microsoft Exchange which is significantly more reliable. All outgoing emails from the mailing list will be routed through this address (appearing as info@cncc.org.uk to recipients) as well as delivery from online forms such as the 'report defective anchor' form. To maximise value, this email mailbox is also used for secretary@cncc.org.uk. There is an annual cost to this of around £50.

### Website Use

	<b>12 Months</b> <i>Mar 17 – Feb 18</i>	<b>3 Months</b> <i>Dec 17 – Feb 18</i>	<b>1 Month</b> <i>Feb 18</i>
<b>Sessions (hits)</b>	22,665	6,446	2,278
<b>Page Views</b>	68,454	20,118	7,561
<b>Users</b>	11,969	3,704	1,431

### Facebook

Statistics to end of Feb 2018...

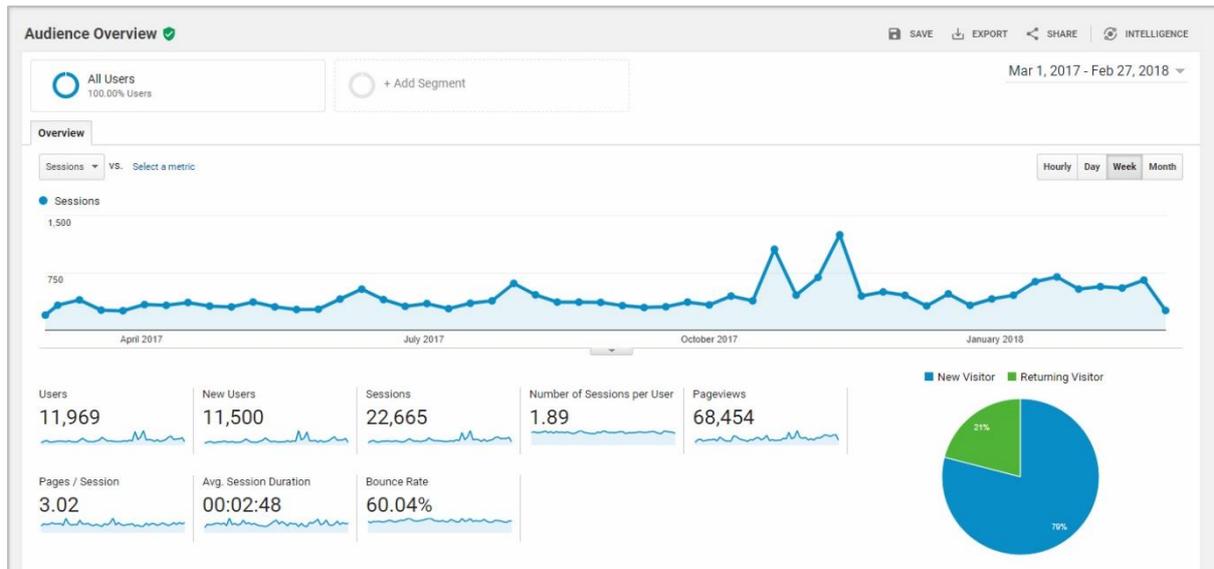
Total page likes: **594**

Total page followers: **619**

Post reach in Feb 2018 was **2,213 people**. This is the number of people who saw posts.

Post engagement in Feb 2018 was **702 people**. This is the number of people who actively interacted with a post, for example clicked the link.

Facebook statistics for the past 12 months...



Above: Google Analytics data showing people using CNCC website 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Facebook posts gaining a reach of over 1000 between March 2017 and February 2018. (Post content has been abbreviated for clarity and note the date is American format month/day/year)...

Published	Post	Reach	Engagement		
			Male	Female	Total
02/20/2018	There has been a flurry of new anchor installation recently...	1.5K	214	58	272
01/19/2018	<a href="https://cncc.org.uk/news/changes-to-access-at-penyghent-and-dale-head-area">https://cncc.org.uk/news/changes-to-access-at-penyghent-and-dale-head-area</a>	1K	141	50	191
11/28/2017	New free rigging topods added for Car Pot, Cupcake and FOUL Pot.	1.3K	135	39	174
11/13/2017	<a href="https://cncc.org.uk/news/collapse-on-mud-hall-traverse-gaping-gill">https://cncc.org.uk/news/collapse-on-mud-hall-traverse-gaping-gill</a>	1.6K	224	59	283
11/08/2017	Please be aware if you're heading for Gaping Gill... <a href="https://cncc.org.uk/news/ingleborough-nature-trail-toll-increase">https://cncc.org.uk/news/ingleborough-nature-trail-toll-increase</a>	3.8K	246	18	264
11/08/2017	New free route description for FOUL Pot now available to download...	2.8K	92	34	126
10/26/2017	<b>New access agreement established with the new owners of Fairy Holes...</b>	<b>19.9K</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>928</b>
09/28/2017	Thanks to CNCC volunteers from Bradford Pothole Club and Natural England for more great conservation work...	1.1K	92	22	114
08/21/2017	Website to accompany the new Northern Caves book is now live...	1.3K	125	39	164
08/15/2017	Newsletter issue 6 is now available to download...	1.6K	128	30	158
08/07/2017	Work to re-stabilise the entrance to Penyghent Pot was completed yesterday...	2.6K	174	85	259
07/30/2017	More great work from conservation volunteers...	1.8K	159	45	204
07/24/2017	Penyghent Pot Update Stabilisation work on the entrance continued at the weekend...	1.1K	78	30	108

07/18/2017	Help us with conservation by reporting sites that need attention...	1.8K	89	39	128
06/22/2017	A great new website for getting your non-caving friends into the sport...	1.3K	82	31	113
06/22/2017	Anchors replaced in Bull Pot...	2.9K	242	74	316
06/11/2017	<a href="https://cncc.org.uk/news/new-cncc-anchor-scheme-2017">https://cncc.org.uk/news/new-cncc-anchor-scheme-2017</a>	2.8K	236	57	293
06/07/2017	<a href="https://cncc.org.uk/news/cncc-to-support-crow-campaign">https://cncc.org.uk/news/cncc-to-support-crow-campaign</a>	1.5K	182	46	228
05/24/2017	Gaping Gill winch meet open to the public...	6.8K	593	230	823
05/15/2017	Have you written a cave route description? Send it to us so it can help others.	1.1K	59	20	79
04/19/2017	Great conservation work by the Buttered Badgers and helpers at the weekend...	1.7K	139	56	195
02/23/2017	Some more great conservation work by CNCC and Natural England volunteers...	1.1K	86	18	104

## Downloads

Total topo downloads since Dec 2016: **30,570**

Total description downloads since Nov 2016: **17,593**

It is not possible to filter this information down to the last 12 months as this data is not recorded however this is planned to be changed to gain better statistics in the future.

### Individual description download count...

Grange Rigg Pot.....166	Little Hull Pot..... 310	Sell Gill Holes ..... 448
Christmas Pot.....194	Short Drop and Gavel.... 318	Penyghent Pot ..... 450
Shuttleworth Guide.....196	Large Pot ..... 332	Great Douk and MW..... 455
Washfold Pot.....239	Notts Pot ..... 335	Tatham Wife Hole..... 461
Hagg Gill Pot.....241	Juniper Gulf ..... 344	Ireby Fell Caverns ..... 471
Hunt Pot .....244	Ibbeth Peril 1 ..... 359	Jingling Pot..... 479
Big Meanie .....248	Simpsons Pot..... 362	Valley Entrance..... 534
Rumbling Hole.....254	Aygill Caverns ..... 366	LJs, BH and DHH..... 558
Long Kin W. and Pillar ....258	Marble Steps Pot..... 371	Calf, Old Ing and Birk. .... 564
Nick Pot .....262	Black Shiver Pot..... 384	Yordas Cave and Pot..... 564
Hurnel Moss Pot.....276	Heron Pot ..... 385	Aquamole Pot..... 574
Out Slets Beck Pot .....281	Swinsto Hole..... 414	Gaping Gill ..... 890
FOUL Pot .....282	Vesper and Spectacle .... 414	Ease Gill Cavern ..... 892
Long Kin E. and Rift .....298	Rowten Pot..... 428	Alum and Long Churn .... 962
Meregill Hole.....301	Bull Pot ..... 429	

### Individual topo download count...

Magnetometer Pot .....	16	New Goyden Pot .....	308	Boxhead Pot .....	436
Pippikin Pot .....	32	Large Pot .....	309	Rift Pot .....	441
Birks Fell Cave .....	33	Long Kin East .....	316	Juniper Gulf .....	445
Car Pot.....	91	Big Meanie .....	316	It's a Cracker .....	446
FOUL Pot .....	160	Gavel Pot .....	319	Tatham Wife Hole.....	450
Cupcake.....	162	Shuttleworth Pot.....	321	Yordas Pot.....	457
Top Sink.....	231	Flood Entrance .....	324	Heron Pot .....	497
Jib Tunnel (Dihedral) .....	236	Roaring Hole.....	330	Marble Steps Pot .....	505
Hurnel Moss Pot.....	247	Rumbling Hole.....	334	Gingling Hole .....	511
Oddmire Pot.....	250	Aygill Caverns .....	335	Simpson's Pot .....	535
Grange Rigg Pot.....	251	Small Mammal Pot .....	337	Yordas Cave .....	535
Pool Sink.....	254	Hunt Pot .....	340	Swinsto Hole.....	543
Disappointment Pot .....	263	Death's Head Hole.....	352	Notts Pot.....	546
Nick Pot .....	267	Vesper Pot .....	355	Sunset Hole.....	550
Washfold Pot.....	268	Long Kin West.....	360	Lancaster Hole .....	551
Spectacle Pot.....	276	Hensler's Pot .....	362	Rowten Pot .....	580
Penyghent Pot.....	280	New Rift Pot .....	365	Ireby Fell Cavern .....	606
Pillar Holes .....	282	Stream Passage Pot.....	367	Gaping Gill .....	621
Rat Hole.....	282	Hardrawkin Pot .....	374	Bar Pot .....	646
Short Drop Cave .....	284	Cow Pot .....	389	Bull Pot Witches .....	650
Brown Hill Pot .....	289	Meregill Hole.....	394	Jingling Pot.....	669
Marilyn .....	291	Christmas Pot .....	398	Lost Johns' Cave.....	675
Out Sleets Beck Pot .....	293	Little Hull Pot.....	405	Sell Gill Holes .....	682
Long Drop Cave .....	297	Diccan Pot.....	408	Bull Pot .....	730
Browgill Caves .....	306	Black Shiver Pot.....	414	Aquamole Pot.....	731
Langcliffe Pot.....	307	Calf Holes.....	417	Alum Pot.....	1333

**Gary Douthwaite – CNCC Webmaster**

## Meets Secretary's Reports

### Casterton Fell – Hannah Walker

#### Changes to permit applications

In order to ensure that the CNCC is not restricting access beyond what is agreed in the access agreement, some changes have been made to how Casterton Fell permits are issued. It is no longer a requirement to send letter-headed requests for Casterton Fell permits, as there is no mention of this in the access agreement. An email or a letter is sufficient.

In addition, Casterton Fell permits do not have to be for a specified entrance, but rather apply to any entrance on Casterton Fell. To reflect that, permits are now sent with the following information:

***"Please note: Although this permit shows a named cave entrance/entrances, this is actually a permit for caving on the fell. Therefore it is considered acceptable to use this permit to visit any of the entrances on Casterton Fell providing all other conditions are followed. If considering using this permit to visit a different entrance to that specified you are recommended to view the Google calendar (<https://goo.gl/inFBIQ>) and to be courteous to any groups already booked in for that cave entrance."***

#### Note about Lancaster Hole

Although the 2013 access agreement restricts the total number of permits to 5 on weekend days, 3 on bank holidays, and 2 on all other days, there is no restriction on the number of permits for a specific entrance (i.e. all five permits could be for the same entrance), and no restriction on the number of entrances that can be listed on a permit.

On the advice of the previous Casterton Fell Meets Secretary (Alan Speight), and based on my own experience, I have in the past limited the number of permits for Lancaster Hole to 2 per day, or 3 in circumstances where the clubs concerned were in communication with each other so that they could coordinate their trips (e.g. share ropes). Even with the restriction of 2 or 3 permits per day I have heard cavers complain when they had a permit for Lancaster Hole and found another team there with a permit. The majority of applicants have been happy to choose an alternative entrance or Dales caving area for their trip. These restrictions were designed for the benefit of cavers and not for the benefit of the Landowner or for cave conservation reasons.

Clubs continue to apply for permits to specific caves, and I enter these details in the Google calendar, so ideally cavers who decide to descend a different entrance will avoid Lancaster Hole if it is apparent by looking at the calendar that other groups are intending to go there. However it is likely that making each permit applicable to the whole fell means that there will be more visits to Lancaster Hole on wet days, and more than 2 or 3 teams choosing to descend on some days.

Unless the committee advises me otherwise I will not "officially" restrict permit for Lancaster Hole but I will suggest to applicants that they choose a different entrance if 2 or 3 permits have already been issued for that day, with the caveat that clubs who have not requested a Lancaster Hole permit may visit there anyway.

## Permits this year

Between March 2017 and February 2018 (inclusive), 255 permits were issued to 53 clubs. One application was received in the post. A small number of requests came from non-BCA clubs or groups, BCA individual members (one of whom was a CIC trainee), and a group of Duke of Edinburgh students based at an outdoor centre. I did not send these permits since the access agreement states that they can only be sent to CNCC member clubs (which includes all BCA member clubs).

**Table 1.** Number of Casterton Fell permits issued to clubs between March 2017 and February 2018.

Month	Number of CNCC Permits	Number of Clubs
March 2017	30	13
April	15	8
May	14	8
June	14	8
July	36	9
August	15	7
September	14	10
October	31	17
November	27	10
December	30	15
January 2018	15	11
February	14	10

**Table 2.** Number of permits issued for entrances on Casterton Fell between March 2017 and February 2018. A single permit can be issued for multiple entrances, so the total number of entrances exceeds the total number of permits.

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	Subtotal
Lancaster Hole	13	7	9	8	27	10	7	16	13	16	5	8	139
County Pot	13	7	4	6	18	12	4	15	9	20	8	4	120
Wretched Rabbit	10	3	2	1	16	4	3	17	10	6	6	8	86
Cow Pot	2	1	1	1	3	6	1	3	5	4	0	2	29
Top Sink	5	1	2	2	12	8	4	7	5	2	1	2	51
Pool Sink	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	15
Sylvester Pot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	45	20	21	19	76	40	20	60	44	49	22	25	<b>Total</b> 441

### Aygill and Ingleborough - Geoff Whittaker

#### **Aygill Caverns:**

During the last 12 months, 17 BCA member clubs have requested a total of 26 permits for Aygill Caverns. This has been a slight increase on the previous 12 months.

Ingham and Yorke have had monthly reports for Aygill Caverns and no issues have been reported.

#### **Ingleborough Estate/Allotment and Newby Moss:**

Since March 2017 to date, 42 BCA member clubs have requested a total of 200 permits with a further 26 permits issued for 7 DIM's/CIM's, making a total of 226 permits issued during the last 12 months. On balance, permits issued to BCA member clubs are similar to the previous 12 months, however, permit requests from individual CIM'/DIM's were down 45%.

Looking forward from this month, 52 permits have already been issued and are now entered on the online system.

Ingham and Yorke have had monthly reports as usual and no issues have been reported.

### Whitewell Pot area – Tony Brown

One permit issued from March 2017 to February 2018 (Whitewell Cave)

### Excalibur Pot – Matt Ewles

I issued three permits for Excalibur Pot from March 2017-February 2018 and have so far issued one for the rest of 2018. A small but steady trickle of interest. No issues to report.

### Birks Fell, Robinsons Pot, Ludwell Fairy Holes and Mongo Gill – Ric Halliwell

I have issued all the Robinson's Pot permits for this year.

There are 4 permits remaining for Fairy Holes this year (June, October, November, December).

I have issued 10 permits for Birks Fell and 2 for Mongo Gill so maybe the number of cavers visiting these sites is finally on the increase. The Mongo Gill access agreement needs renewing this year and I have had my first discussions with the owners of Stump Cross to see whether they are willing to change from Clubs only to individuals too. I won't be seeing the owners again until April but there is no question that the agreement will be renewed.