

**CNCC COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORTS & ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

OCTOBER 2025

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Conservation Officer

Training Officer

Access Officer

CO-OPTED OFFICER REPORTS (optional)

Access Co-ordinators

Bowland

Excalibur

Robinsons & Fairy Holes

BCA Council Representative

BCA Conservation & Access Representative

BCA Training & Equipment Representative

BCA Youth & Development Representative

Inclusivity Co-ordinator

Anchor Team Co-ordinator

Individual Caver Representative

Web Administrator

PR & Communications

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club - Update
(see separate statement on website)

(For information)

CHAIR'S REPORT

(Todd Rye)

Verbal report to meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Kath Davis)

Since the last meeting the daily rate for Training Instructors has been increased from £150 to £160. The course fees for participants have also been increased to £35 per day. There will still be a balance to be claimed from the BCA to subsidise the Training courses.

We are now not required to pay more than a month ahead for Training Course Venue which helps with cashflow, thanks to Ian Patrick for agreeing this with YDG.

So far this year less has been spent on Conservation and Access work than last year. In July Tom Thompson claimed £389.22 for a pipe for Limley Mine.

Andrew Hinde arranged a grant of £2000 from YDMT to fund materials for C & A work. This came in to our bank account on 28 July and I am keeping a record of expenses which can be taken out of this fund.

Bank Balances at 29 September were:

Community Account (current account)	£3,575.50
Business Savings Account	£13,333.72

For the remainder of the year the main expenditure will be paying the Training Instructors for scheduled courses and enough funds need to be in the accounts to cover expenses into 2026 since the BCA Grant is claimed retrospectively.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(Jill Bolton)

I was pleased to see mention in the last newsletter that we'll need a new secretary at the AGM, when I shall be standing down after three years. That said, I hope to still be around in some other capacity, to support my replacement.

With that in mind, my focus over the next few months will be to update the relevant section of the Manual of Operations, to reflect current practice. I'm also planning to create a more detailed "Secretary's Handbook", which will contain confidential information such as passwords and personal contact details.

The June committee meeting discussed who was entitled to claim travel expenses, so I clarified the position with the BCA Treasurer. In May 2025, the Finance Working Group agreed that:

Expenses could be reimbursed for any Officers, whether elected or appointed, if the Regional Council had agreed to pay them, but not for club representatives

Therefore co-opted officers are able to claim, and I have updated the Manual of Operations accordingly.

Aila has decided to step down as our Youth & Development Representative, so please let us know of anyone who might be interested in taking over this interesting and worthwhile role

We've received news of unfortunate developments at one of our member clubs, resulting in Ulster SSCC being wound up (to be replaced by a new club). I've removed Ulster from the CNCC committee, and uploaded a statement explaining the background. Although this is a highly unusual situation, it might prompt other clubs to consider whether they might theoretically be vulnerable.

In September, I spent a few hours at Hidden Earth in Llangollen, and was impressed with the superb display and demonstration of anchoring techniques, which attracted a lot of attention. Disappointingly, I couldn't get in to a very packed room to hear Rick Peterson's archaeology lecture. (A CNCC Archaeology Workshop would surely prove popular!)

For the next two months, the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes will be hosting an exhibition of caving photographs. Called "Underground Worlds", it will explore the links and history between the Yorkshire Dales and the Phong Nha cave system in Vietnam. Andrew Hinde will represent the CNCC (and BCA) at the official launch on October 27.

A few weeks ago, a pair of land-based artists contacted the CNCC looking for advice about several shakeholes near Gaping Gill. They are planning to be on-site at the beginning of November, and I hope to have more precise information ahead of our meeting.

NAMHO (National Association of Mining History Organisations) will be holding their 2026 Conference in Swaledale, on June 20-21, so we need to ensure our June committee meeting doesn't clash with this very popular event.

There are new government regulations about Fire Safety in public buildings, including village halls. This requires us to nominate in advance a Fire Safety Manager, who will be "on duty" for the duration of the meeting. In practice, there is little else required, since we already make a record of attendees.

CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

(Kay Easton)

The graffiti at Yordas has been cleaned by a team led by Andrew Hinde. John Helm led a party replacing the fence around Pasture Gill Pot. Both of these are being partially funded by a grant from Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust.

A number of projects are in various stages of preparation, including work on the shaft top at Aquamole, and stock proofing and attention to scaffolding at Swan Dike Pot. If anyone would like to take one of these on, leading the work on the day (I'll do most of the admin for you) please let me know.

A list of equipment available for CNCC members to borrow for conservation projects is on the CNCC website: <https://cncc.org.uk/about/>
(It's under the "about" heading rather than "conservation" because the list also includes publicity and anchor placement items.)

Those who are planning conservation works are reminded that Sam Allshorn has money donated by Mike Cooper from sales of "Not for the Faint Hearted" which is available for conservation work on caves featured in the book.

TRAINING OFFICER / COORDINATOR'S REPORT

(Ian Patrick)

1. Autumn–Winter Training Programme

We recently launched the Autumn-Winter series of training workshops. Despite anticipating a potential drop in demand, uptake has remained strong. In particular, the expanded number of 2:1 ratio workshops has been very well received.

2. "New to Caving" Events

Two fully-subscribed "New to Caving" events were run in August, with excellent feedback from participants. Encouragingly, a significant number of attendees have since enrolled on "New to SRT" workshops and have begun purchasing their own equipment.

These introductory events are a popular way to try out our sport. If any clubs are interested in running similar days, please get in touch - there continues to be strong demand, and we would much rather clubs were facilitating these days.

3. Workshop & Trainer Fee Adjustments

- The standard participant fee has increased by £5.00 (£10.00 for 2:1 workshops).
On average, this equates to an additional £20.00 of income per workshop.
- The trainer day rate has increased from £150.00 to £160.00. This remains significantly below the industry standard. The remaining fee will go to the CNCC to reduce the amount claimed from the BCA
- Conflict of Interest: As one of the trainers this increase will directly benefit me. I took advice from fellow officers regarding this and was reassured that it was an appropriate action.
I always aim to be fully transparent regarding fees.

4. Acknowledgements

As always I would like to express my gratitude to all the CNCC trainers for their continued support and delivery of quality caver training. Thanks also to other CNCC members for their support behind the scenes.

Thanks to Tim Allen, I was left with a list of access issues that he felt he and the CNCC needed to clarify moving forward. It was comprehensive, and I have slowly begun to make progress.

Skirwith Cave

The landowner has had a history of pressing issues with access to this former showcave, including large groups during lambing time, trip reports being posted on the internet, and various signs being removed from the gate. Their access agreement was centred on people providing written notice of their planned visit a week in advance, with an SAE, approximate group size and a contact telephone number. A potential visitor would then not usually receive a response that access had been permitted, but the landowner would tell them if it was an issue.

I met the landowner, and we agreed this was an unnecessary use of their time and may encourage people to visit without gaining permission, etc, by pretending stuff was lost in the post, or not go at all. Sadly, the landowner is very nervous about allowing unfettered access to the site, particularly as the cave floods, but is also subject to Ingleton quarrying operations. They were also nervous about potential liability – hence the addition of the BCA club or DIM membership amendment below.

It was agreed that the system would be taken online, but, after further discussion, access@cncc.org.uk would become the recipient, and CNCC's assistant access officer would then work with the owner and intended visitor for access.

It was agreed, subject to CNCC Committee support, that the website be changed to:

The landowner asks that visiting groups and covers give written notice of their planned visit a week in advance, by writing to access@cncc.org.uk with the intended date of your visit, approximate group size, and including a contact telephone number.

If the visitors are Club or DIM covers (BCA membership), then access will usually be granted. The CNCC will be in touch if there are any problems.

We ask that you do not block the access gate entrance. It is a polite request of the landowner that no photos/videos of the cave or trip reports be posted on the internet anywhere.

Note that access to the cave will not be granted during the lambing season. Please also note that the cave can be affected by quarrying operations and flooding, and entry is at your own risk.

Please help us to maintain ongoing access to this cave by adhering to the requested rules.

I realise this isn't the free access arrangement that would undoubtedly be the goal, but the landowner has had several issues and was mindful of even closing access altogether. Thankfully, this is a compromise, and I'm hoping it runs well enough to revisit next year for further discussion. I also discussed CNCC's conservation work, and this interested the owner, provided the cave wasn't adopted in any way.

Whitewell

I've been following up on the existing access conversations from November 2024 and have spoken to Tony Brown about the current situation and taking it forward ... noting the work of Tim Allen and Jill.

Dara, our contact, isn't with the Duchy anymore, and therefore, I have contacted another person there whom I know from my work with woodland management plans. I'm keen to enhance the access we have, but not do anything to reverse or damage what has been agreed and is manageable.

A pre-meeting fact-finding call has been suggested, followed by a face-to-face meeting that will hopefully take place when Tony returns from his holidays.

Other

Ahead of the next CNCC meeting, James and I are hoping to meet with Ingleborough Estate, Selside (Churns) and Ribblehead and make some tentative enquiries around Birkwith through a contact.

I also note that Tim suggested looking at current CNCC access notes where 'Call at the Farm' is mentioned to see if an easier system could be engineered. Strangill and Knock Fell Caverns are examples.

Mike Appleton

ACCESS CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

Bowland

(Tony Brown)

I have given out two permits for Hell Hole since the last committee meeting. The oil drums giving access to the pitches below the surface pitch are now in a dangerous state and cavers should not attempt to descend through them. RRCPC and Northern Boggarts are investigating a 10 feet deep pit which appeared an unknown number of years ago but has been open and unchanged since at least 2010. We are calling this the Pit o' Hell and it takes any amount of flood water that used to flow down the original entrance shaft. We don't know yet whether that water enters Hell Hole part way down the entrance shaft, further down, or not at all.

Excalibur

(Matt Ewles)

One group has visited Excalibur Pot this year, no problems to report. See separate agenda item regarding anchoring to replace the rotting scaffold bar and degrading exploration anchors. Conservation tape around the splendid formations in the main streamway has recently been replaced after the previous tape (placed in 2008) having become so calcified that it snapped under the weight.

Robinsons & Fairy Holes

(Dinny Davies)

Only a couple of bookings for Robinson's and Fairy Holes last year. Two bookings so far for 2026. All are reminded that plenty of dates remain available in 2026, for these two fine caves.

BCA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Todd Rye)

Verbal report to committee, on BCA Council meetings and AGM

BCA CONSERVATION & ACCESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(James Alderson)

No report submitted

BCA TRAINING & EQUIPMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Mark Richards)

The BCA Exec has now removed anchors from the Training & Equipment group and also created a new BCA Anchors Working Group. Therefore, there are now two BCA working groups:

- Training & Equipment (excluding anchors)
- Anchors

Ian Patrick and Mark Richards are members of both groups, and Ian Walker is a member of the Anchors Group.

There have been initial meetings for both new groups in September, which were well attended and good progress was made. Pete Knight has volunteered to lead the Anchors group, with the BCA Secretary chairing the other group on a temporary basis.

Key relevant points from each working group will be reported to the committee meeting.

BCA YOUTH & DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Aila Taylor is standing down as Y&D rep, but here's a link to the "Parks in the Dark" ZINE she produced for the Campaign for National Parks:

<https://tinyurl.com/h5dh5dj6>

INCLUSIVITY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

(Josh White)

It's all been very quiet on the inclusivity front over the summer. Please keep reaching out to me at inclusivity@cnc.org.uk with any queries you may have. I have assembled a team of wonderful volunteers with a range of lived experiences of inclusion who help me provide advice on issues that come in.

I'll be putting another article in the next CNCC newsletter, but in the meantime my personal blog 'The Inaccessible Outdoors' covers all sorts of inclusivity issues in the outdoors, and (in my opinion) is well worth a read at:

www.theinaccessibleoutdoors.substack.com

Anchors installed since last meeting

Summary of anchors in the database with installed date June to September inclusive

Cave	Anchors	Notes
Bull Pot of the Witches	4	Entrance slope (to replace the now-removed Petzl anchors)
Disappointment Pot	4	Far Country / Hensler's Passage (see January minutes)
Jingling Pot	5	Various locations on Lateral Cleft route (replacing failed CNCC anchors; see June Anchor Coordinator report)
Link Pot	5	Traverse to Tiger Inlet (replacing various anchor types)
Marble Steps Pot	3	Cake Hole
North End Pot	9	New installation (to replace spits and studs)

Also the following older installations have been recently added to the database

- 26/05/2025: 1 anchor in County Pot (Brown and Smelly Chamber, Manchester Bypass)
- 23/01/2022; 3 anchors for the direct route in Jingling Pot; 'URA' was recorded in Swinsto; more investigation required

Anchors known to be installed but not yet logged in the database

- Bull Pot of the Witches – additional anchors in entrance slope lower part (2025)
- Wizards Chasm – project ongoing
- Alum Pot – NW route (2021)
- Birks Fell Cave (upper part); missing from records. Probably DMM type from 1997-2006

Defect reports

Summary of anchor user reports received and action taken

- 10 further reports have been received
 - 3 for Ireby Fell Caverns
 - 2 for Jingling Pot Lateral Cleft (work ongoing)
 - 1 each for Lost Johns, Notts Pot, Valley Entrance, Bull Pot, Hardrawkine
- There are 20 outstanding reports (was 18)
- 4 open reports are more than a year old; oldest is Notts Pot from 2021

Comment

Receiving reports shows that cavers are engaging with the CNCC system. But we need to deal with those reports in a reasonable timeframe and Committee should consider whether the installer team has sufficient support and encouragement for maintenance jobs (compared with new).

Anchors decommissioned

5 in Jingling Pot; see below.

Jingling Pot

(Follows on from the June report about Jingling Pot, where the Lateral Cleft route was highlighted as having a number of loose DMM anchors from the early 1990s.)

Maintenance work has been undertaken in Jingling Pot to inspect and replace anchors. Subsequently, an additional report has been received, indicating that further work is required.

Record keeping

Investigations into Jingling Pot highlighted that historic CNCC anchor installation data for West Kingsdale was missing from the online archive. This has now been located and will soon be uploaded. Thanks to AS for contacting a former volunteer.

<https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/data-archive>

Also in Jingling Pot, missing records for the IC anchors on the main hang have been located and upoaded. I continue to encourage gap filling of records as issues come to light.

West Kingsdale 1990s resin

This follows work to identify loose anchors in Jingling Pot; see June report when I suggested a programme of targeted maintenance on 1990s resin anchors.

Our current understanding is that anchors installed in the early 1990s (with Hilti Hit C50 resin) are prone to shrinkage and becoming slightly loose. This has been highlighted before.

Having received the historic records, I analysed all the current and historic data that I could find relating to West Kingsdale (separate document on website).

The records show that 6 potholes were bolted in the 1990s with Hilti Hit C50 resin, and that there were reports of loose anchors in these potholes within 1, 2 and 3 years of installation. Since then much work has been undertaken to maintain, amend, and augment these installations.

In 2025, we are still receiving loose anchor reports for 3 of those 6 potholes. There are 5 open reports for West Kingsdale potholes (Bull Pot, Jingling Pot, Valley Entrance). Using the data on the number of anchors installed in the 1990s, plus our records on anchor replacement and the latest topos, I estimate that there are over 100 affected anchors still in situ.

We cannot be certain that there is a problem with the Hilti Hit C50 resin, but based on the information we have it seems likely that there is and that we will continue to receive loose anchor reports from these potholes. I propose a dedicated one-off inspection of the anchors we know about.

PECO anchors (Disappointment Pot)

Following a query by Bob Mehew regarding the above. The records show that twelve PECO anchors were placed in Disappointment Pot (Pitches 3,4,5). We don't have a record of them being removed as was committed to and publicised. I think an inspection is required.

Topo updates

Notwithstanding changes made following anchor works, work is nearing completion on a full anchor audit and review of the topos for Alum Pot, and also Lost Johns.

BCA Anchors Working Group

I have agreed to represent the CNCC at this newly-formed group.

Installers

I have begun the yearly review of installers. I am yet to hear back from all the installers, and it may be that a number are no longer interested. I have drafted a questionnaire to find out more from the installers. However I would like additional input on the wording before sending it out.

I found a list of trainer/assessors in the minutes from the AGM 2020; there are/were 4 trainers. Two of these have been active in the last couple of years; this should be sufficient for the three-yearly re-validation. It may be that we need a more organised way to remember who is approved for what.

Proposed new installations for Committee consideration

I am aware of the following requests (by others)

- Excaliber Pot

For reference – list of approved projects approved last meeting

- *Thunder Pot (current dig likely to yield 70m pitch to Brown Hill Streamway)*
- *Providence/Dowbergill - replacing non-CNCC anchors which are absolutely required with no addition of any further non-essential anchors. SA to inspect site*

And the list as shown on website 15/10/2025. (I do not maintain the list)

- **(Get Down) Shep Pot**
- **Car Pot**
Climb into Craven Passage
- **County Pot**
Numerous handlines including Brown and Smelly Chamber, Cadbury Traverse, Clough Passage, Mancunian Way
- **Craftsman's Pot**
- **Death's Head Hole**
Bottom pitch down to the streamway
- **Flood Entrance (Wades)**
Lost River Series (South East Pot)
- **Gaping Gill (Main Hang)**
Far Country ladder replacement
- **Greenwood Pot**
- **Ireby Fell Cavern**
Ireby II Escalator Rift around Jupiter Cavern and Cripple Creek pitches
- **Jingling Pot**
Final pitch
- **Link Pot**
Traverse to reach Tiger's Inlet
- **Marble Pot**
To be confirmed
- **Mayday Hole**
Lungs Pitch (an alternative route to the currently anchored route)
- **OBJ Hole**
- **Old Ing**
Waterfall anchors on route to Dismal Hill
- **Pay Sank**
- **Stream Passage Pot**
Final pitch (Mud Pitch)
- **Sylvester Pot**
First pitch and climb
- **Turbary Pot**
- **Plus 6 more projects.**

Anchor Scheme review

At the June meeting I suggested that the Anchor Scheme is due a review and provided some suggestions. This was not explicitly agreed upon and I ask the Committee to approve these changes:

Therefore I ask Council at this stage to approve the following changes:

1. Update the CNCC name and remove BCA from the title page
2. Change Anchor Co-ordinator role from “ensuring compliance” to “reporting on compliance”
3. Update CNCC scheme section 5 (training) to accommodate the 2021 BCA changes

INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

(Tim Allen)

There has been a bit of action following evidence supplied to the All Party Parliamentary Group on "Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature" but this is ongoing and we still await a formal response to some letters. I may be in a position to update the meeting if anything firm has happened.

I contacted Rachel Briggs at YDNP about addressing the full Local Access Forum and that has initiated a meeting of the Cave & Crag group in November, which I should also be able to attend.

WEB ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

(Gary Douthwaite)

Web Administrator Report – October 2025

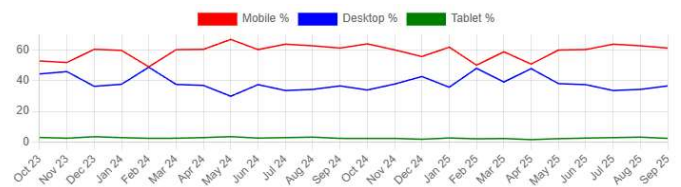
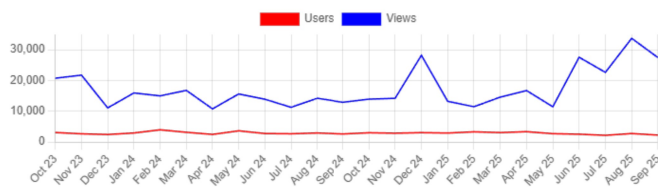
Not too much going on with the website other than the usual housekeeping. Mostly as I have been busy in the run up to Hidden Earth.

WRENCH Functionality improved	Added the ability to upload multiple files to caves rather than just one topo and one description. It is now possible to add multiples of either as well as a generic 'document' file if required.
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Analytics

Site visitors

	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25
Users	3,009	2,869	3,049	2,921	3,315	3,067	3,362	2,712	2,540	2,178	2,759	2,250
Views	13,940	14,219	28,205	13,234	11,481	14,605	16,742	11,465	27,573	22,666	33,728	27,455



Social Media

Meta statistics for the last 90 days. Percentage is comparison to previous 90 days.

Facebook – 2067 followers

13700 content views (-28%)
273 content interactions (-30%)
662 page visits (-16%)
12 new followers (-29%)

Top towns/cities

- Bradford: 2.4%
- Kendal: 1.9%
- Sheffield: 1.9%
- Carnforth: 1.7%
- Lancaster: 1.5%
- Skipton: 1.3%
- London: 1.1%
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia: 1.1%
- Settle: 1.1%
- Leeds: 1%

Top countries

- United Kingdom: 77%
- United States: 4%
- Cambodia: 1.8%
- Ireland: 1.4%
- Italy: 1.3%
- Spain: 1.3%
- Australia: 1.2%
- Thailand: 1%
- France: 0.7%
- Portugal: 0.6%

Instagram – 665 followers

4100 content views (-19%)
163 content interactions (-43%)
67 profile visits (-60%)
21 new followers (-45%)

Top towns/cities

- London: 2.4%
- Cardiff: 2.3%
- Lancaster: 2.1%
- Bradford: 1.7%
- Leeds: 1.5%
- Penrith: 1.4%
- Kendal: 1.4%
- Manchester: 1.4%
- Bangor: 1.2%
- Carnforth: 1.1%

Top countries

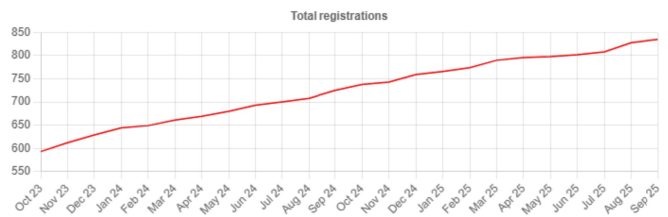
- United Kingdom: 66%
- Italy: 6.9%
- Brazil: 5%
- Spain: 2.7%
- United States: 2%
- Iran: 1.4%
- Russia: 1.1%
- Germany: 1.1%
- France: 0.9%
- Romania: 0.8%

Social media followers comparison:

	CNCC	DCA	CSCC	CCC	DCUC	BCA	UK Caving
Facebook	2067 (+12)	862	724	--	--	3200	4400
Instagram	665 (+23)	--	--	--	--	--	1040
Bluesky	37 (+3)	--	--	--	--	--	--
X	551 (+8)	563	--	--	--	244	--
Threads	75 (+3)	--	--	--	--	--	--
YouTube	25 (+0)	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mailing List

- The mailing list contains 837 people (18 have requested to be unsubscribed).



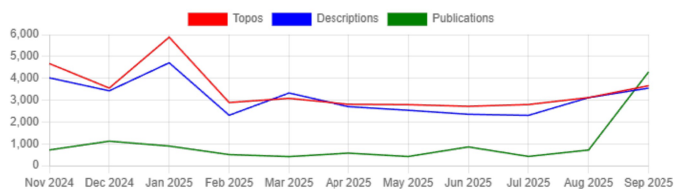
Online Booking System

- 1372 registered users
- 6975 individual bookings have been made. This number includes 6125 approved bookings and 849 cancelled bookings.
- 311 (23%) made a positive statement that they are NOT BCA members.
- 939 (68%) said they are members of a club.
- Of the users who specified gender there are 244 female (18.4%), 980 male (74%) and 5 other (0.4%).
- The average age is 50 with the youngest 17 and oldest 84.



Media Downloads

	Topos	Descriptions	Publications
Sep 2025	3660	3551	4295
Aug 2025	3116	3113	717
Jul 2025	2798	2303	423
12 Month Average	3164	2862	912



Top media downloads (last 3 months)

Topos	Descriptions	Publications
246 - Bar Pot / Small Mammal / Flood Entrance	364 - The Leck Fell Master Cave System	315 - Great Douk Cave - A Guide to Hidden Gems
233 - Alum Pot	355 - Gaping Gill	312 - Shuttleworth Pot (Witches Cave) Conservation Guide
213 - Simpson Pot	341 - Ease Gill Caverns	275 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 17 - June 2025
212 - Gaping Gill and Dihedral	328 - Alum Pot and Long Churn Caves	253 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 16 - December 2024
201 - Lost Johns' Cave	226 - Great Douk and Middle Washfold	247 - GDPR for Caving Clubs - April 2018

Report data snapshots taken 16 October 2025.

It's been a slightly quieter few months in terms of news stories (quite normal for summer). However, this situation has been rescued by the new topos and descriptions that have just been announced, the launch of the winter training workshops, an article about our response to the APPG outdoor recreation consultation, and the Yordas graffiti cleanup. This has ensured we have had stories spanning training, access, anchoring, descriptions, and conservation. I always like to ensure none of our main 'areas' get neglected in any between-meeting period.

Stories are shared, as always, via our website, UKCaving, Facebook and where appropriate, X, Instagram, Threads and Bluesky. No, I don't know what the last two are either, but I am assured by Gary (who is very social-media savvy) that some people use them and he kindly posts what I write.

Hidden Earth was a record-breaking conference for attendees. Gary and I transported and set up the stall as usual with the same banner as last year (at £60 I felt we probably needed to get a couple of years out of it), with a little bit of fresh material including an updated timeline. The star of the show this year was an extensive new anchoring display provided by Ian and Mark including a demo of the Simpson Pot chains, our various anchors, the CNCC puller, hydrajaws and even an anchor jammed into a drilled hole in a rock with some screws that could be 'extracted' with the puller to allow people to 'play'. In addition to this, Ian and Mark staffed the stall for almost the entire conference and engaged with loads of cavers. I am extremely thankful indeed to them, and anyone else who spent time staffing the stall.

Some (anonymised) feedback ...

"Hi Ian, it was good to meet you at the CNCC stand at Hidden Earth this weekend. I just wanted to say a massive thank you for being so kind and understanding with my son. He loved the CNCC stand, not just the sweets, but also all the anchors and rigging. He said on our way home that the CNCC stand was the best. We're definitely keen to do a CNCC training course, so we'll have a look at dates and hopefully get something booked shortly. I think it will be really beneficial for Andy to learn some SRT from other experienced people. If only all the other regional caving bodies were half as good as CNCC!"

The newsletter was less popular with very few copies shifting, so I still have probably about 20-30 copies of the June edition, which I will bring to the meeting.

A reminder that I also still have hundreds of New-to-Caving 'Venture Underground' leaflets and several posters. These are perfect to hand out to anyone looking to try caving as a potential new hobby, particularly if you or your group are not able to cater for novice trips. They promote the CNCC's excellent new to caving events. Please do take some and distribute, including to any local venues. I would like to try to shift these so I can get more done under our new name.

The mailing list now stands at 836 addresses (as of October 2) and is typically growing at an average of a dozen per month. Of course, some of these addresses may also now be defunct. I continue to send roughly monthly mailshots covering northern caving and CNCC news.

I believe the Red Rose Open House event was a good success, and I'm please CNCC were able to help (in a small way) get the word out about this.

Finally, a reminder to anyone doing any kind of access, publicity, training, conservation or other work for the benefit of other northern cavers (either with or without CNCC funding) . . . please tell me about it, ideally with a photo, and I'm happy to help promote your efforts to ensure you get acknowledged, but also to help inspire others to be similarly proactive.