

Mendip ROCKS! 2013

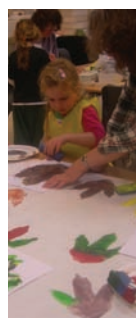
August - September 2013

A festival to celebrate the fascinating geology of the Mendip Hills

A rock-filled festival to celebrate the fascinating geology of the Mendip Hills. Step back in time and explore an amazing 420 million years of geology right under your feet. Now in its third year, the festival offers a wide range of events which tell the ancient stories that have shaped a unique and very special landscape. Mendip's best kept geological secrets are very much the theme this year, with many events being held at sites that are either not usually open to the general public or are little known.

The limestone geology has created the highest inland cliffs and some of the most beautiful caves in the UK. We aim to explore this geological diversity throughout our festival events. These include talks, walks, workshops and visits. No prior in depth knowledge of geology required, all will be revealed as we explore together.

Admission Charges – unless otherwise stated events are free but a donation of £3/adult, £1/child is welcome towards the Mendip Rocks! Project.



Thur 1 Aug 11am – 4pm Rocky Roadshow

Longleat Conference Room, Goughs Cave, Cheddar Gorge

Fun for all ages with drop-in workshops from the Somerset Earth Science Centre team joined by the Bristol Dinosaur Project, Mendip Hills AONB Young Rangers, and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

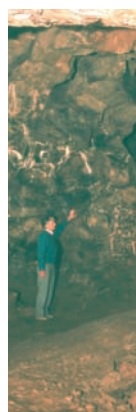
FFI Dr Gill Odolphie, 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk



Thurs 8 Aug 10.30am – 2.30pm Living Seas Brean Beach Walk

Explore the coastal wildlife of this rocky beach below the Carboniferous cliffs of Brean Down with Nigel Phillips. Learn how these cliffs were formed and how the sea has shaped this landscape during the last 6,000 years. Bring food for beach picnic. ST 296 584. National Trust Car park closest to Brean Down.

FFI Nigel Phillips 01278 732266 or nigelphillips@thesomersetcoast.co.uk



Sat 3 Aug 10.30am – 4pm Banwell Bone Caves Treasure trove

Guided tours of the impressive display of bones from animals that lived in the Mendips before the last Ice Age. Discover the geology of Banwell Hill and the follies built from local stone, constructed by Bishop Law in the early 19th century.

Weston-super-Mare to Wells Bus Service – Wells Lane stop, 0845 606 4446 for current bus times. Booking essential – by July 31 johnatthecaves@btinternet.com or write to John M Haynes, The Bone Caves, Banwell, BS29 6NA

£6 includes tea and cake (under 5s free) – payable at event



Sun 11 Aug 10.30am – 4pm Vallis Vale's hidden geological gems

Exploration of the De la Beche Unconformity followed by a fossil foray at the ancient sea bed at Tedbury Camp in the beautiful Vallis Vale near Frome with Elizabeth Devon. Bring picnic lunch. ST 749 492 Mells River Bridge at Great Elm village.

FFI elizabeth@earthlearningidea.com



Tues 6 Aug 10am – 3pm Crook Peak Drystone Walling

Learn the ancient skill of drystone walling with the National Trust and Mendip Hills AONB. The course will be working on the restoration of one of the historic field boundaries on Crook Peak. The walls are a distinctive feature of the Mendip plateau, and were built centuries ago from the stone. Suitable for 16 yrs and over. Booking essential, Andy Mallender (AONB) 01761 462338 or

amallender@somerset.gov.uk

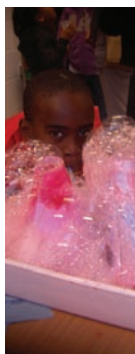


Weds 14 Aug 10am – 2pm Discover Black Down and Burrington Ham

Explore the dramatic limestone and sandstone landscape of Black Down and Burrington Ham and reach Beacon Batch, the highest point on the Mendip Hills. Suitable for 11 yrs and over. A 6 mile circular walk with Andy Mallender, Mendip Hills AONB. Meet in the car park at the bottom of Burrington Combe (next to Ham Link Lane). ST 477 591 BS40 7AT. Booking essential,

Andy Mallender (AONB) 01761 462338 or amallender@somerset.gov.uk





Thurs 15 Aug 10.30am – 4pm
Under The Sea with RockWatch



Travel on a journey of over 400 million years through time, starting in an era of volcanoes, through to swampy seas and finishing in clear blue tropical sea. Explore Mendip rocks through hands-on experiments, and visits to old and operating quarries. Somerset Earth Science centre, near Stoke St Michael. £5/family. Booking essential, Dr Gill Odolphie **01749 840156** or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk



Sat 17 Aug 2pm – 5pm
Wild Westbury Quarry



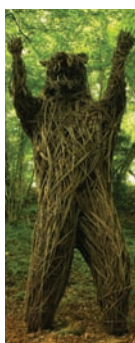
A tour of this former limestone quarry where cave bears once lived and now a haven for wildlife. Enjoy limestone rich meadows alongside striking geological features. Westbury Quarry, Stancombe Lane, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Wells BA1 1HT. Suitable for 11 yrs and over. Booking essential, Nigel Taylor, Quarry Manager **01749 871289** or nigel.taylor@explosives.net



Sun 18 Aug 11am – 4pm
Blackmoor Nature Reserve
Family Fun Day



Find out more about the lead mining with the Mendip Society. Pond dipping and nature walks for all the family. Bring your own picnic. FFI Odette Stevens **01749 342081** or familyfunday@mendipsociety.org.uk



Wed 21 Aug 2pm – 4pm
Explore Ebbor Gorge



Join Bob Corns from Natural England for a walk around Ebbor Gorge to explore its geology and geomorphology. With its prominent position on the southern escarpment of the Mendips this reserve commands breathtaking views across Somerset. ST 520484 Ebbor Gorge car park on Wookey to Priddy road. Suitable for adults and children 11 years and over. Booking essential, Simon Clarke **01458 860120** or simon.clarke@naturalengland.org.uk



Thurs 29 August – 10am – 3 pm
A Tale of Two Mendip Quarries



Quarry tours to see two working quarries at Moons Hill and Whatley, within 4 miles of each other, quarrying different types of rock, millions of years apart. Meet Somerset Earth Science Centre, nr Stoke St Michael. Booking essential, Dr Gill Odolphie **01749 840156** or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk



Sat 31 Aug 10am – 2pm
Explore Black Rock



Come and enjoy a fun day at Black Rock. Follow a trail around this exciting site, with lots of activities along the way. Families can come and join in the fun anytime between 10am until 3pm. Booking essential, Somerset Wildlife Trust **01823 652400** or enquiries@somersetwildlife.org



Mon 2 Sept 2pm
Wells – A History in Stone



A journey through time to the ancient landscapes of the Wells area, by looking at the rock types used in and around the Cathedral Green on a guided walk with David Rowley. Meet at Wells and Mendip Museum. £3/person. Booking essential, **01749 673477** or admin@wellsmuseum.org



Fri 6 Sept 7.30pm
The Rushing Waters
and The Frozen Deep



Illustrated talk about the fascinating world of the caves beneath the Cheddar Catchment, including photographs of the largest cave chamber so far found. Wells and Mendip Museum, Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2EU. FFI Peter Glanvill **01460 64262** or pglanv@aol.com. *Wheelchair accessible*



Sat 7 Sept 11am – 3pm
Explore Shute Shelve Tunnel



Come to Slader's Leigh Local Nature Reserve, near Winscombe, for activities for families and short tours of the former railway tunnel cut through the rocks of the Mendip Hills. ST 421 562. Slader's Leigh can be accessed via an easy access ramp from the Strawberry Line Heritage Trail. Car parking in Winscombe, ½ mile on foot or by bicycle along the Strawberry Line Heritage Trail. FFI Andy Mallender (AONB) **01761 462338** or amallender@somerset.gov.uk. Part of a day of events along the Strawberry Line to mark the passing of the last train 50 years ago. <http://www.strawberryline.org.uk/>



Sun 8 Sept 2pm – 4pm
Cooks Wood Quarry Walk



View impressive geological exposures at Cooks Wood, Stoke St Michael, a large, disused limestone quarry. Also examine another geological feature, a 'slocker' on a 'Quarry Faces community heritage' project walk with Robin Thornes. Booking essential, Dr Gill Odolphie **01749 840156** or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk



Weds 11 Sept 11am – 3 pm
Doultong Quarry Tour



A 'Quarry Faces community heritage' talk with Robin Thornes about the history of quarrying Doultong Stone followed by a visit to the Doultong Stone Quarry, Chelynch Road, Doultong where this widely used building stone has been quarried for over a thousand years. Meet at the Somerset Earth Science Centre. Booking essential, Dr Gill Odolphie **01749 840156** or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk

General enquiries or for a copy of programme: Ruth Worsley, Somerset Earth Science Centre, **01749 840156**, or email ruth@earthsciencecentre.org.uk www.earthsciencecentre.org.uk

Symbol Key



Guided walk



Family event



Practical event



Talk

Banwell Bone Caves ©John Chapman; Lilstock, Cheddar Catchment ©Peter Glanvill; Ebbor Gorge ©Simon Clarke; Charterhouse Flues, Crook Peak, Shute Shelve Tunnel ©Andy Mallender; Rocky Roadshow, Under the Sea with RockWatch, Burrington Coombe, Westbury Quarry, Moons Hill Quarry, Black Rock, Cook's Wood ©Ruth Worsley; Doultong Quarry kind permission Vera Pike; Wells ©Elizabeth Devon; Tedbury ©Martin Whiteley; De La Beche ©David Doff