

MEMBERSHIP

We are a large well established club. Prospective members are encouraged to join in on a few trips before applying for membership. Please the link below for membership fees (excluding BCA membership) which covers publications, and general administration costs. There is a reduced fee for couples & those under 16 where a parent is a member. All our members are expected to be members of BCA whether directly, via another club or through joining WCMS.

<https://wealdencaving.org.uk/website2/membership/>

AFFILIATIONS

The society is a member of or is affiliated to the following organisations:

British Caving Association.
<https://british-caving.org.uk>

National Association of Mining History Organisations.
<https://www.namho.org>

Cambrian Caving Council.
<https://cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk>

Council of Southern Caving Clubs.
<https://csccl.org.uk>

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society.
<https://cnhss.co.uk>

South East Cave Rescue Organisation.
<http://secro.org>

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about WCMS and its activities can be obtained from the Chairman or Secretary of the Society:

Email: chairman@wealdencaving.org.uk

Email: secretary@wealdencaving.org.uk

More details about the old stone mines and our activities there can be obtained from the Surrey Mines Agent:

Email: sma@wealdencaving.org.uk

For information about membership of the Society please contact the Membership Secretary:

Email: membership@wealdencaving.org.uk



WEALDEN

CAVE & MINE SOCIETY

wealdencaving.org.uk

Founded in 1967 as Unit Two Cave Research & Exploration



Registered Charity No. 1113767

INTRODUCTION

The Wealden Cave & Mine Society was founded in 1967 as Unit Two Cave Research & Exploration to research and explore all manner of underground sites. WCMS differs from the majority of caving groups, for besides its interest in natural caves, there is a strong interest in mines and underground stone quarries. The society is a member of several regional caving councils and other regional organisations.

A committee comprising of the usual officers meets regularly to deal with the business of running the society and its activities.

ACTIVITIES

There are trips down the old firestone quarries at Merstham and Godstone in Surrey, or other local visits, practically every week, and weekends away at least once a month to South Wales or other caving regions. Typically, we might spend a week in Yorkshire in the spring, a week in South Wales in the summer and a few days between Christmas and the New Year at The Stump, our base in Wales. Social meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month in a pub in the Redhill and Reigate area, so that members can exchange news and views and arrange future trips. Many of the members also enjoy hill walking and generally exploring the caving areas above ground.

INFORMATION

The society publishes a newsletter several times each year and an occasional annual journal that between them contain trip reports, write ups on original explorations and digs for new caves, technical articles, news of the society and caves and mines in general. Copies of the publications are sent to the British Library, other interested bodies and exchanged for journals from other groups. Logbooks are also kept of the society's activities.

There is a library that contains not only all the old newsletters and journals from other groups, but also most of the area cave guides for the main caving areas of the country.



NEW TO CAVING?

Advice can be given to novices on a progressive basis while actually caving, and all trips are tailored to suit the capabilities of the group. Members can normally lend gear to newcomers on their first few trips, until they feel committed to the sport enough to buy their own personal gear. Again, advice on equipment is readily available from experienced members.

We are also able to offer advice and allow our members to practice their SRT skills within one of the Tunnel Road caverns which is normally carried out on a Monday evening.

ACCOMMODATION

The group has the exclusive use of superb base in the Brecon Beacons sitting right on top of Ogof Fynnon Ddu with all mod cons that sleeps 20. When visiting other areas, we generally stay at other caving groups' cottages which have similar facilities. Tackle is available in Surrey and Sussex for use in the other regions.

REIGATE CAVES

<http://reigatecaves.org.uk/>

We also open the Reigate Caves five times a year to the public during the summer months of May through to September. Known locally as the "Reigate Caves", tours include the Barons' Cave in the Castle Grounds and the East and West Caverns in Tunnel Road. The Surrey town of Reigate is well known for its 'caves' which riddle the town centre, although these are in fact largely old sand mines. The castle mound overlooking Reigate town centre is composed of soft sandstone and has been mined over several centuries. The castle has long gone but the mound and many of its excavations still remain. We always are looking out for extra/new helpers as we are all volunteers running these open days.