



Mendip ROCKS! 2015

— October 2015 —

A festival to celebrate the fascinating geology of the Mendip Hills

The popular Mendip Rocks! Festival is back again this October, bringing to life the fascinating rocks that have created the Mendip Hills. Step back in time and explore an amazing 420 million years of geology right under your feet. A wide range of events will reveal the ancient stories that have shaped a unique and very special landscape. It's a great chance to see some of Mendip's best kept geological secrets, with many events being held at sites that are not usually open to the general public. There is something for everyone from family fun days to guided walks in working quarries for adults with some geological knowledge.

Admission Charges - Free unless otherwise stated. A donation of £3/adult, £1/child is welcome towards the Mendip Rocks! Project.

Booking - Events do not require booking unless otherwise stated.

Mendip Rocks! 2015 festival is organised by the Somerset Earth Science Centre in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with kind support from Natural England and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Full programme of festival events is available on the following website:
www.somersetwildlife.org/rocks

General enquiries or for a copy of programme: Adel Avery, 01749 840240
adel@nettlebridge.com



Sat 3 Oct 11am – 3pm
Let's Rock! at Somerset Earth Science Centre (SESC)



Hands-on activities provided by our Mendip Rocks! Festival team. Fun family activities to inspire you about our rocky world and tempt you to come along to our festival of events celebrating the amazing Mendip geology. *Somerset Earth Science Centre, Moon's Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU.*



Wed 7 Oct 10am - 3pm
Westbury Quarry Conservation Task



Join the Mendip Hills AONB volunteer team on a conservation task day at Westbury Quarry, former limestone quarry now a wildlife haven. *Booking essential, Nichola Penn (AONB), 01761 462338 or mendipvolunteers@gmail.com*



Wed 7 Oct 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wells – A History in Stone



A journey through time to the ancient landscapes of the Wells area, looking at the rock types used in and around the Cathedral Green on a gentle walk with geologist David Rowley. *Meet outside Wells and Mendip Museum. £3/person. Booking essential, Adel Avery, 01749 840240 or adel@nettlebridge.com*



Wed 7 Oct 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Dorset and Somerset Canal Talk at SESC



An illustrated talk by Derrick Hunt of the Dorset and Somerset Canal Society, about the fascinating history of the 18th Century canal. In 1796 a branch line was planned to run westwards from Frome up the Mells Valley, via Vobster and Coleford to Nettlebridge. Work commenced on building some 8 miles of this branch but it was never completed. *Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



Thurs 8 Oct 9.30am – 1pm
Torr Works, nr Frome Geology Tour from SESC



Tour around one of the UK's largest working limestone quarries, to look at the amazing geology with Aggregate Industry's Geologist Steve Nice. *Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



Thurs 8 Oct 2pm - 4pm
Dorset & Somerset Canal History Walk around Edford and Coleford



A guided walk with Derrick Hunt of the D&S Canal Society, to see the remains of the unfinished canal in the East Mendips around Edford, and Coleford. *Meet in the Duke of Cumberland pub car park at Edford Green, Holcombe, BA3 5HQ. Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



Fri 9 Oct 2pm – 4pm, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Whatley Afternoon and Twilight Quarry Tours from SESC



A minibus tour to see the vast working quarry at Whatley with dramatic exposures of carboniferous limestone. For 16yrs and over. *Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



Sat 10 Oct 10am
A History of Mining on the Mendips



A walk through time with Andrew Newton, Mendip Hills AONB Volunteer Ranger, to explore the former mined landscape around Shipham to discover 'where there's rock there's brass!' About 6 miles - strenuous, on hills, walking boots essential. *Meet at The Square, Shipham BS25 1TW. Booking essential, Andy Mallender (AONB) 01761 462338 or amallender@somerset.gov.uk*



Sat 10 Oct 11am - 6pm
Family day - Fairy Cave Quarry



Family activities/worksheets, live performance 2-3pm. 'step in stone' artscape project in Mendip quarries. *Fairy Cave Quarry, Limekiln Lane, Oakhill, BA3 5JG. www.stepinstone-somerset.co.uk*





**Sun 11 Oct 9.30am – 1pm
Workshop at SESC**

Drawing, printing and creating clay and plaster relief tiles with artist, Duncan Cameron. 'step in stone' artscape project in Mendip quarries. *Booking essential, Fiona Campbell 01749 880394 or fionacampbell-art@sky.com*



**Mon 12 Oct 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Twilight Quarry Tour from SESC**

Tour by minibus to see the vast working quarry at Whatley with dramatic exposures of carboniferous limestone. 16 yrs and over. *Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



**Tues 13 Oct 8pm – 9.30pm
'Step in Stone' - Guided Night Walk
Fairy Cave Quarry**

Walk with poet Ralph Hoyte. 'step in stone', artscape project in Mendip quarries. *Fairy Cave Quarry, Limekiln Lane, Oakhill, BA3 5JG. Booking essential, Fiona Campbell 01749 880394 or fionacampbell-art@sky.com*



**Weds 14 Oct 3.30pm – 4.45pm
Tor Hill Geological Mapping Walk**

An exploration of the geology of Tor Hill on the edge of Wells with geologist David Rowley. The geological structure & rock types of Tor Hill will be looked at on a walk involving steep hills, stiles, and brambles. *Meet outside Wells and Mendip Museum, Cathedral Green. Booking essential, Adel Avery, 01749 840240 or adel@nettlebridge.com*



**Weds 14 Oct 7.30pm
Search for the Lost Cave of Hutton at SESC**

Illustrated talk from Alan Gray on one of the most fascinating Mendip cave mysteries. Alan will also provide a virtual tour of other Mendip caves whilst the audience remain safely above ground!



**Sat 17 Oct 2pm – 4pm
Hidden History of Burrington Ham**

The stories behind this busy industrial landscape of the past will be revealed by Robin Thornes and Chris Richards on a guided walk through its quiet rural landscape of today. *Meet Burrington Combe top car park, ST 489581. Booking essential, Stuart Bardsley, (AONB), 01761 462338 or sbardsley@somerset.gov.uk*



**Sun 18 Oct 10.30am – 4pm
Vallis Vale's Hidden Geological Gems**

Explore the fascinating geological feature of the De la Beche Unconformity followed by a fossil foray on the ancient sea bed at Tedbury Camp in Vallis Vale near Frome with geologist Elizabeth Devon. *Bring picnic lunch. Meet Mells River Bridge, Great Elm, ST 749492. elizabeth@earthlearningidea.com*



**Tues 20 Oct 2pm – 4pm
Whatley Quarry Tours from SESC**

A minibus tour to see the vast working quarry at Whatley with dramatic exposures of carboniferous limestone. 16 years and over. *Booking essential, Gill Odolphie 01749 840156 or gill@earthsciencecentre.org.uk*



**Wed 21 Oct 10am – 3pm
Dolebury Warren Dry Stone Walling**

Learn the ancient skill of dry stone walling on a practical task day with the Mendip Hills AONB volunteer team and the Avon Wildlife Trust. *Booking essential, Nichola Penn (AONB), 01761 462338 or mendipvolunteers@gmail.com*



**Weds 21 Oct 7.30pm
Collecting fossil reptiles from Wiltshire
Frome Museum**

Simon Carpenter presents an illustrated talk on the discovery and excavation of a large sea reptile found at the clay pit in Westbury. Simon has found many other exciting fossils and he will be bringing a selection along for people to see and hold. *Adults/older children. Frome Museum, 1 North Parade, Frome BA11 1AT. Cheese and Grain free car park. info@frome-heritage-museum.org*



**Sat 24 Oct 2pm
William Smith, Father of
English Geology**

A Mendip Society guided walk with Roger Moses to include Rugbourne Farm, the Mearns Coal Pit, and the Paulton and

Timsbury Basins at the end of the Somerset Coal Canal, where William Smith, Father of English Geology, made his early discoveries two hundred years ago. £2 non members. 4.5 miles - moderate.

Meet Paulton Car Park, ST 652565, BS39 7QG. Roger Moses 07977593566



**Sun 25 Oct 10am – 4pm
Explore Ebbor Gorge**

Fun packed family day of 'sand pit fossil digs', story telling, guided walks to gorge and caves and much more to reveal the reserve's unique geology and rare archaeological finds. *Ebbor Gorge National Nature Reserve, ST 520484. Car park on Priddy to Wookey road. Booking for walks of gorge and caves essential, Julie Merrett 01458 860120 or Julie.Merrett@naturalengland.org.uk*



**Thurs 29 Oct 10am – 1pm
Cheddar Gorge Guided Walk**

A walk with the AONB Volunteer Rangers exploring England's largest gorge with its weathered crags and pinnacles - one of our most spectacular natural sites. 5 miles - strenuous climbs. *Meet outside the National Trust shop and information centre in Cheddar Gorge, ST 468543. Booking essential, Andy Mallender (AONB) 01761 462338 or amallender@somerset.gov.uk*



Symbol Key



Guided walk



Family event



Practical event



Talk



Tour

Let's Rock! ©SESC; Westbury Quarry ©Ruth Worsley; Wells Columns; Murtry Aqueduct © Derrick Hunt; Torr Works ©Gill Odolphie; Dorset and Somerset Canal History Talk ©Derrick Hunt; Nunney WI Group at Whatley Quarry - Stone Crushing plant ©Adel Avery; Mining Walk ©Andrew Newton; Casting animal tracks ©Duncan Cameron; Twilight quarry tour ©Gill Odolphie; Step in Stone; Torr Hill Walk ©David Rowley; The

Paddock ©Alan Gray; Burrington Ham ©Ruth Worsley; Vallis Vale - De la Bache unconformity ©Adel Avery; Dolebury Warren dry stone walling ©Mendip Hills AONB; William Smith walk ©Roger Moses; Ebbor Lion ©Jack Denning; Cheddar Gorge ©AONB