

# MENDIP ROCKS! 2024

A festival of events running 1<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to celebrate the awe-inspiring 450-million-year geology of the Mendip Hills!



## RADSTOCK COAL AND RAILWAY WALK



**Tuesday 1st October at 2pm.** Meet at Waterloo Road Car Park, Radstock, BA3 3ER. [what3words///saloons.pyramid.lotteries.](#)

Join local expert Richard Frost as he takes you on a unique tour of the Radstock area. Learn about Radstock's industrial heritage and how coal mining shaped the railways and the lives of those working in the industry.

The walk will involve some mixed terrain. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. Booking required. £5 per person. Places are limited.

## BATTS COMBE QUARRY TOURS



**Wednesday 2nd October at 10am & 2pm.** Meet at Batts Combe Quarry reception car park, Warrens Hill, BS27 3LR. [what3words///typist.lights.contracts.](#) (Please reverse park.)

Come and see some of the purest limestone in Britain, laid down during the warm tropical climate of the Carboniferous period. Be amazed by its many uses and learn about past and present extraction and processing methods during this unique two-hour guided minibus quarry tour.

Please wear appropriate clothes including trousers, long sleeved tops, and boots. Safety PPE will be provided. £5 per person. Places are limited.

## STOKE QUARRY TOUR



**Tuesday 8th October at 10am & 2pm.** Please meet at Somerset Earth Science Centre, Moons Hill Quarry, BA3 5JU.

[what3words///thumb.diverged.alcove.](#) (Please reverse park at top of car park.)

Find out more about the Mendip volcanoes that were active over 425 million years ago. Observe firsthand how volcanic rock is extracted and processed during this fascinating two-hour guided minibus quarry tour.

Please dress appropriately including trousers, long sleeved tops, and boots. Safety wear and hot drinks will be provided. Booking required £5 per person. Max number 12 each tour, places are limited.

LOADS MORE INSIDE!



## BUILDING STONES OF WELLS GEO WALK

**Wednesday 9th October. 10am to 12.30pm.** Meet in front of Wells and Mendip Museum, 8 Cathedral Green, BA5 2UE. ST 5509 4593. [what3words///crunched.funky.scored](#).

Join geologist Dr Doug Robinson for an exciting insight into the stones that built the beautiful city of Wells. A gentle walk with some challenging areas for those with mobility issues. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. Parking available in city centre car parks. Booking required £5 per person. Places are limited.

## GEO LECTURE DAY

**Saturday 12th October. 12.30am-4.30pm.** Somerset Earth Science Centre, Moons Hill Quarry, BA3 5JU.

[what3words///thumb.diverged.alcove](#).

Please reverse park at top end of SESC car park.

- Professor Chris Jackson, Director of Sustainable Geoscience at the engineering consultancy Jacobs and Visiting Professor of Basin Analysis, Imperial College London. "The Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste – Need, Opportunities and Challenges".
- Professor Mike Benton, Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology, University of Bristol. "From Charles Moore to CT Scanning in Somerset: Studying the World's Oldest Mammals".
- Professor Susan Marriott, Research Associate, University of Bristol. "Producing the New GA Guide to the Bristol Region: the Known Unknowns".

Booking required. £15 per person (discount unwaged/students £5). Light refreshments included.

## EARTH SCIENCE WEEK 13<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## WHAT LIES BENEATH?

**Wednesday 16th October, 2pm to 4.30pm.** Meet at Priddy Village Hall, Priddy, Wells BA5 3BE. [what3words///foiled.scornful.calm](#).

Join experienced caver Peter Glanvill on a guided walk around the Priddy area. Learn about the local cave systems and enjoy stories of their exploration. Distance approximately 3.5 miles using footpaths across meadows with some uneven ground. Rough tracks and stiles with a total ascent of approximately 300 feet. Not suitable for individuals in mobility issues. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. £5 per person. Places are limited.

## GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE OF THE WESTERN MENDIP HILLS

**Thursday 17th October 10.30am to 4.30pm.** Meet at former café (now a bike shop) in Burrington Combe. BS40 7AT. Grid ref ST476590.

[what3words///enhanced.refilled.famous](#).

Take a tour across the Blackdown pericline with Professor Tony Watts to explore the geology of the Mendip Hills and its relationship to the landscape, human occupation and activity. Walk involves some moderate slopes. Please note that you will be required to drive short distances between key sites. Not suitable for individuals with mobility issues. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. You will also need a packed lunch and a torch if you have one. £5 per person. Places are limited.



Prof Chris Jackson



## CARBONIFEROUS PILLOW LAVAS GEO WALK AT SAND POINT

**Friday 18th of October 11am-3pm** at Sand Point, near Weston-Super-Mare. Grid ref ST330659. [what3words:///sushi.storeroom.hogs](#).

Join geologist John Kirby as he takes you on a fascinating journey back to the time of Carboniferous volcanics on the West Somerset Coast. The tour will include approximately an hour of walking with regular stops to discuss the geology. Some modest slopes. Please bring a picnic lunch and wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. National Trust car park fee is £5 per vehicle, free to National Trust members. Not suitable for children under 16. £5 per person. Places are limited.

## EXPLORING EBBOR GORGE AND WOKEY HOLE GEO WALK



**Monday the 21st October. 10am-3.30pm.** Meet at Deerleap car park, Wells, BA5 3AY. Grid ref ST 5190 4928. [what3words:///variances.larger.bookings](#).

Discover the secrets of Ebbor Gorge and Wookey Hole with Dr Doug Robinson. Learn about the geology of this southern flank of the Mendip Hills National Landscape and enjoy stunning views across the Somerset Levels.

This walk will involve variable terrain, some traffic and gate climbing. Not suitable for those with mobility issues. Please note that you will be required to move your vehicle short distances between key sites. All car parks are free of charge. Please wear suitable footwear and weather appropriate clothing and a packed lunch. £5 per person. Places are limited.

## LEAD MINING AT CHARTERHOUSE – ROMANS TO VICTORIANS WALK

**Tuesday 22nd October. 10am-12.30pm & 2pm-3.30pm.** Meet at Ubley Warren Drive, near Charterhouse. ST 503 555. [what3words:///clocks.void.cupboards](#).

Join local archaeologist Steve Tofts as he reveals the industrial secrets of the Charterhouse area. Learn how Mendip lead was mined and processed from roman times to the Victorian era. Tour involves a morning walk and an optional afternoon walk, both approximately 2 miles. Rugged terrain with some steep slopes. Not suitable for those with mobility issues. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. Please bring a packed lunch or make a booking for 12.30pm at the Castle of Comfort if you would like a pub lunch. Booking required. £5 per person. Places are limited.



## BUILDING STONES OF FROME GEO WALK



**Wednesday 23rd October. 2pm-4pm.** Meet at the front of the Cheese & Grain, Market Yard, Justice Lane, Frome, BA11 1BE. [what3words:///doctor.petal.forum](#).

Join local geologist Simon Carpenter as he takes you on a fascinating journey to discover the stones that built the picturesque town of Frome and about the fossils and environments that formed them millions of years ago.

This circular walk will involve some steep slopes and steps. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. Booking Required. £5 per person. Places are limited.

For more information: [mendiphills-nl.org.uk/news/mendiprocks](https://mendiphills-nl.org.uk/news/mendiprocks) | 01749 840 156

## UNTANGLING GEOLOGICAL TIME AT TEDBURY CAMP GEO WALK

Thursday 24th October. 10.30am-12.30pm.

Meet in the layby at Fordbury Bottom near Great Elm, Mellis. Grid Ref. ST 749 492. [what3words///merge.saloons.science](https://www.what3words.com/merge.saloons.science).

Come and examine the rocks and fossils around Tedbury Camp with geologist Martin Whiteley. Look for clues about their formation and the events that occurred since their deposition.

A short walk that includes a steep flight of steps and some uneven ground. Unsuitable for those with mobility issues. Please wear sensible footwear and weather appropriate clothing. Booking required. £5 per person. Places are limited.



## SOMERSET EARTH SCIENCE CENTRE MUSEUM & OPEN DAY

Meet Rexy and Roxy the T-Rexes

Saturday 26th October. 11am - 3pm. Somerset Earth Science Centre, BA3 5JU. [what3words///thumb.diverged.alcove](https://www.what3words.com/thumb.diverged.alcove).

Come and see our wonderful collection of Mendip fossils, rocks, and minerals. Bring in your own finds for identification by experts. Lots of fun activities for all the family including geo activities with local artists, geo time trail, and photo opportunities with Remy and Roxy the T-Rexes. Pocket money fossils for sale. Light refreshments available. Requires booking, but general admittance is free. Alabaster stone carving workshop requires separate booking. £10 per person.

Many events require booking and some have a small charge - please see the website for further details.

Please visit our Facebook page or the Mendip Hills Natural Landscapes website for the most up-to-date information:

[www.facebook.com/MendipRocks](https://www.facebook.com/MendipRocks)

[mendiphills-nl.org.uk/news/mendiprocks](https://mendiphills-nl.org.uk/news/mendiprocks)



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