

# The University of Bristol Spelæological Society



The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society – Caving (Page)  
University of Bristol Spelaeological Society – UBSS (Group)



@ubsstagram



@UBSSmuseum



## Freshers Handbook 2023-2024

# WELCOME TO THE UBSS!

Caving is one of the most diverse and exciting sports around. There are caving trips to suit everyone; caves can be dry, underground rivers or lakes, leisurely wanders or have plenty of challenging squeezes and climbs.

This handbook contains useful information to get you started on caving. However, don't worry if it doesn't all make sense. Just come along and join us for a pint or soft drink on Tuesday nights to get yourself on a trip or to find out more. If you can't make it to the pub, where most trips are arranged, then you can still sign up for club trips by replying to emails sent out or by asking on the Facebook group.

*Student President*

## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| WELCOME TO THE UBSS!                          | 1  |
| CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN 2023                      | 2  |
| DETAILS OF THE FRESHER'S WEEKENDS             | 4  |
| UBSS ACTIVITIES                               | 6  |
| CAVING EQUIPMENT AND WHERE TO BUY IT          | 8  |
| BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND ONLINE RESOURCES         | 10 |
| UBSS PUBLICATIONS                             | 11 |
| CAVING AREAS IN GREAT BRITAIN                 | 11 |
| APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE TRATMAN FUND | 15 |
| THE UBSS - A BRIEF HISTORY                    | 16 |
| UBSS FACILITIES                               | 18 |
| WHERE TO FIND US                              | 20 |
| USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS                        | 21 |

## CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN 2023

This is not a definitive list - **details may change, and we will be organising MANY additional trips and events**. Come to the pub on a Tuesday evening, at 8:30 (check our group chat for the location) to get yourself on a trip and remember to check your email and the Facebook Group regularly. If you don't come to the first few trips or training sessions, don't think that you've missed out on the chance to go caving - come along anyway!

More details will be posted on Facebook events, Instagram, and emailed out to you nearer the time if you signed up to our mailing list at the Welcome Fair (if not - give us a shout and we'll add you to the list).

### **Welcome Talk Chilli Night**

*28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm  
The Stables, rear of 21  
Woodland Road*

Join us for our traditional welcome night with FREE Chilli! There will be a short talk followed by food and some mingling. BYOB if you fancy a drink.

### **Cowstails Pub Crawl**

*3<sup>rd</sup> October 8pm  
(Meet point TBC)*

Familiarise yourself with the watering holes of Bristol. You'll get quickly acquainted with new friends as we will be roped together during this pub crawl!

### **Mendip Freshers Caving Weekend**

*7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October  
Meet at the SU on Saturday morning*

Your first opportunity to come caving with UBSS. More details on weekends in a later section...

### **South Wales Freshers Caving Weekend**

*20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Meet at the SU on Friday evening*

Another chance to come caving. This time in South Wales with the huge horizontal systems they have there.

**Bonfire Weekend (Mendip)**

*4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> November*

*Details TBC*

An UBSS staple weekend. Expect a barrel of beer, fireworks and perhaps a spit roast lamb. (Oh and of course, a bonfire!)

**CHECC Forum (Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs)**

*November (Dates TBC)*

CHECC is the event when all University caving clubs get together and have a big party (sometimes we even go caving too!).

**REMEMBER: Evening trips are organised informally in the pub or by email on a frequent basis. If you want to do some more caving, just ask!**

## DETAILS OF THE FRESHER'S WEEKENDS

These weekends are an excellent introduction to caving, and a great way to meet fellow members of the club. Don't fret if you can't come along as there will be many other opportunities for you to cave and socialise throughout the autumn term.

### **For the Mendip Trip:**

Meet early on Saturday morning at the Student's Union where we will sort out caving kit. From here we will travel to the Mendip Hills and enjoy a weekend at our very own hut in the woods. Saturday will consist of an introduction to caving. Dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday will be provided. On Sunday after more caving, we will return to Bristol at the latest by about 6pm.

### **For the South Wales Trip:**

Meet after lectures on Friday evening at the Student's Union (eat beforehand) where we will sort out caving kit. From here we will drive over the bridge to Wales into the Brecon beacons where we will stay at another club's hut. Breakfast will be provided on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner will be provided on Saturday. There will be caving trips on Saturday and Sunday and we will return to Bristol by about 6pm on Sunday.

To attend these weekends, you **must** be a member of UBSS through the SU website - it is only £10 for the whole year which includes the BCA insurance you need so we can take you caving.

## WHAT TO BRING

Helmets, belts and lights will be provided but you need to **bring the following essentials:**

A complete set of **warm old clothes** to cave in. Bring an additional set if you don't like putting on cold, wet clothes on Sunday. A warm long sleeved top preferably in a manmade fibre such as fleece is good. Jeans or shorts are not at all suitable.

If you have one, a Primark 'onesie' is ideal. See Caving Equipment section for more details.

**Welly Boots.** Army boots are OK but trainers or walking boots with lace hooks are not suitable. If you get in quick, there may be some wellies to borrow.

**Warm clothes and shoes** for when you're not caving, plus a **waterproof jacket**. Be warned they will probably get muddy and wet too.

A **sleeping bag**. Again, if you get in quick, there are some spares.

**Chocolate (or other energy dense robust snacks)** in a sealed plastic wrapper (e.g. Mars, Snickers). You will appreciate it when you need that extra boost of energy underground.

**Money.**

The costs of the weekends are described below, but bring some with you just in case you end up stopping in a pub or café after caving. Also remember to bring your own beer (or other drinks) to the weekend.

An **old towel**.

**Bin liners** (to put wet clothes in). Several carrier bags will also do.

#### OTHER NOTES AND COSTS

If you have any questions or problems, speak to the Student President or Secretary (see contacts section). Alternatively you can message us on Facebook and we will do our best to respond!

Vegetarians (or any other dietary requirements) will be catered for if you let us know in advance. If you need to borrow any sleeping bags or wellies, let us know in advance so we can be sure that we have enough.

The Mendip weekend costs £20. This includes transport, kit hire, hut fees and food.

For the South Wales weekend, we will work out what everyone owes for kit hire, food, transport and hut fees after the weekend. The cost for this weekend is likely to be £25-£35.

*Drivers will be reimbursed fuel money plus 20%*

## UBSS ACTIVITIES

### CAVING:

We are fortunate to be based in a caving region, a mere 15 miles from the Mendip Hills and all the speleological delights they have to offer. This proximity allows us to cave throughout the week. This is usually planned, on an informal basis, in the pub on Tuesdays or by email. We also have weekend events taking place in the Mendip (where we stay at our own hut) and in other regions include South Wales, Derbyshire, The Forest of Dean and Yorkshire.

During holiday periods it is common for members to take trips abroad, either to visit already discovered caves or to go on expeditions to find new ones. In recent years we have been to Ireland, Austria, France and Mulu in Eastern Malaysia.

### TRAINING SESSIONS:

These occur on weekday evenings, sometimes preceding the pub meet (see map). Details will be sent out by email. You may need to book a place in advance.

We run a series of training sessions so that you can learn some of the more technical aspects of caving. These training sessions cover rope work, knots, ladder work and SRT (Single Rope Technique). SRT is used to move through unclimbable vertical sections of cave and involves abseiling down and on the return, climbing up the rope using mechanical jammers. Many Yorkshire and Derbyshire caves require SRT, hence it is advisable that you attend these training sessions. Kit for training sessions will be provided although you will need to pay a small amount to purchase some 'cows tails'.

There may also be advanced sessions for more experienced members but we will let you know when you are ready for these.

### PRESENTATIONS:

There will be a series of lectures and talks throughout the year, usually taking place on Tuesday evenings in the Stables. These will be announced in due course via email and Facebook.

Topics might include cave conservation, introduction to caving, reports on summer expeditions, caving abroad and cave diving. These lectures are suitable for newcomers, sometimes there will even be food provided (look on the event details).

#### SOCIAL EVENTS:

Every Tuesday, the club meets at the Eldon House pub on Jacob Wells Road at 8.30pm. This is where most trips are arranged, so if you want to go caving or just want to meet some people, come along. (Location subject to change, keep an eye on Facebook or email our social secretary if you have questions).

We also have numerous socials and caving weekends throughout term time, with some staple events including Bonfire Weekend and the Annual Dinner after our AGM in March. Keep an eye out as there will be more talks, socials and weekends announced throughout term time.

## CAVING EQUIPMENT AND WHERE TO BUY IT

Caving equipment can be divided into two areas - group equipment i.e. ladders, ropes etc. (which the club provides) and personal equipment. This section describes the personal equipment you will need to keep you warm, let you see, protect your head and stop you losing your footing on wet, muddy rocks.

### GETTING STARTED:

The only things you really need to start off with are a pair of **Wellingtons/ old boots** and some **warm old clothes**. 'Onesies'- available from Primark for about £12 - are very useful, as they drain water efficiently, and save you from getting an entire set of clothes wet. They are also surprisingly warm.

Over the top of your clothes you will be wearing a purpose built 'oversuit'. These are rented from the club at a cost of £1 per trip. They contain your body heat and offer some protection for your clothes.

Wellingtons can be bought cheaply from cheap shoe shops, outdoor shops, *Toolstation* on Whiteladies Road and *Wilkinson's* on the Triangle. Army boots are an alternative but not walking boots with lace hooks as the hooks can get caught on the wire ladders we use. **Trainers are totally unsuitable**, as they offer no protection and minimal grip.

The club has some lights, belts, and helmets, which are available for hire. Lights and helmets are £1 each and belts are free. A general rule of first come, first served operates, so it's best to book them in advance. The club also owns four SRT kits for hire at £3 for a day. For any queries about kit contact the Tackle Warden - see Contact Details section.

### WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SPEND SOME MONEY:

Getting properly equipped means you will be able to go on longer and more interesting trips. Feel free to ask more experienced members for advice before making purchases.

The first specialist clothing people buy are usually **kneepads** which prevent bruised knees and protect your clothing. They cost approximate £10 to £20.

A **furrysuit** and **oversuit** are probably next on the list. Furrysuits consist of a one-piece fibre-pile (fleece) undersuit and cost about £50. After getting wet, the fibre-pile drains very quickly and warms up again in a few minutes. To

protect this and yourselves, an oversuit is worn. It is about £90 but occasionally, second-hand caving suits are available to buy.

The alternatives to a furrysuit are a **wetsuit** or **neofleece**. Members usually get these after furrysuits, as an alternative option for wet caves only. They are from about £80 new or find one secondhand. If opting for a new wetsuit, it is best to buy one specifically designed for caving. Wetsuits are good for wet caves as they give you buoyancy and keep you warm, but are restricting and can be very cold when you are not moving. A compromise is a neofleece (half wetsuit, half fleece).

Owning your own **light** is extremely useful and you will save money in the long run. There are several models and brands to choose from, varying in price. The most popular brand is currently Fenix. You will also need a **helmet** to put your light on. It must be a proper caving helmet (costing about £35 to £55).

Other extremely useful pieces of kit that aren't expensive include a heavy duty **caving belt**, **survival bag**, **balaclava** and **gloves**.

For SRT you will need **cows tails** (ask an experienced member to help you get the right type and length of rope for this) and when you are feeling rich, then a full **SRT kit**.

As with anything, if you have any questions about kit, feel free to ask any of the more experienced members and committee.

#### WHERE TO BUY CAVING GEAR IN AND NEAR BRISTOL:

Millets, Blacks and Go Outdoors sell camping gear, sleeping bags, wellingtons etc.

#### CAVING SHOPS IN OTHER AREAS AND ONLINE:

**Starless River** is good for buying gear online and tours the countries caving areas. [www.starlessriver.com](http://www.starlessriver.com)

**Inglesport** (Yorkshire) - we usually call in when we are in the area. It has an online shop [www.inglesport.co.uk](http://www.inglesport.co.uk)

**Caving Supplies** (Derbyshire) - Visit it at [www.caving-supplies.co.uk](http://www.caving-supplies.co.uk)

#### HIRING EQUIPMENT:

The club has some lights, belts, helmets and SRT kits which are available for hire. Details of hire charges are available in the tackle store or ask a committee member.

On club weekends, the trip organiser will arrange these for you if you let them know when signing up for the trip.

## BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND ONLINE RESOURCES

The following are well worth reading if you want to know more about caving. Most of the books and magazines are held in the club library and can be borrowed.

### BOOKS ON CAVING TECHNIQUES:

Caving Practice and Equipment - ed. D.Judson. All the advice in this book is sound.

The Complete Caving Manual. Andy Sparrow. Another book on skills and safety.

Alpine Caving Techniques: A Complete Guide to Safe and Efficient Caving. Marbach, Tourte and Alspaugh. Ideal for learning about SRT techniques.

### OTHER CAVING BOOKS:

Mendip Underground - D.Irwin, A.Jarratt. THE guide to most of the caves on Mendip.

The Cave Explorers - Jim Eyre. A very funny book about early exploration in the Yorkshire Dales and abroad.

The Darkness Beckons - M.Farr. All about cave diving if you're that way inclined!

### MAGAZINES:

BCA Newsletter - The bimonthly newsletter of the British Caving Association.

Descent - A bimonthly magazine which contains general news and longer articles.

### ONLINE CAVING INFORMATION:

[ukcaving.com/board/index.php](http://ukcaving.com/board/index.php) – forum for the whole caving community in the UK

[cavediggers.com/vertical/](http://cavediggers.com/vertical/) - good book on techniques by Al Warild available free online.

## UBSS PUBLICATIONS

### THE NEWSLETTER:

The newsletter is produced monthly and is distributed to all club members by email. Contributions such as trip reports, drawings and cartoons are always welcome and should be handed to the editors (see contact sections)

### PROCEEDINGS:

This is our annual scientific publication, and covers all aspects of cave and karst, including geomorphology, cave biology, prehistory and the history of cave studies. The authors range from students, staff and other members to international authorities on various subjects. Proceedings is one of the few caving journals that is professionally printed and bound and the only one where all of the papers are refereed by independent experts before acceptance. Proceedings is available to students at a reduced rate.

## CAVING AREAS IN GREAT BRITAIN

### MENDIP:

The Mendip hills are a beautiful part of the Somerset countryside. Being so close, it is where the majority of our caving trips take place. The Mendips have a large number of caves, offering a wide variety of trips.

One of your first trips is likely to be in Burrington where there are plenty of small but exciting caves such as Goatchurch Cavern and Sidcot Swallet. Swildons Hole offers much in the way of formations and an exciting streamway with waterfalls and pools. The total passage length of Swildons Hole is around 5 miles, making it one of the largest and most famous caves on Mendip. GB (named after Goddard and Baker, the UBSS members who first discovered it) has the largest underground passage on Mendip and offers plenty of excellent formations. UBSS are currently digging in GB and Wookey Hole, and you may want to get involved with this exciting aspect of caving which involves removing spoil from choked passages in the hope of breaking through into territory where nobody has ever been.

Mendip caves are characterised by a steeply descending entrance, often levelling out at depth and ending in a sump. Few Mendip caves exceed 500ft in depth or a couple of miles in length but what they lack in quantity, they make

up for in quality or variety with noisy streamways, fine grottos, squeezes and large chambers.

### THE YORKSHIRE DALES:

Without a doubt, the Dales contain some of the country's finest and most spectacular caves. Most involve SRT (Single Rope Technique) which can be learnt at training sessions. In a typical Yorkshire cave (if there is such a thing) you would follow an underground stream, cascading down a series of pitches (vertical drops) until it levels out to reveal an extensive network of passages, normally ending in sumps. Because of large, active streamways, the passages are normally much bigger than on Mendip.

A lot of the caves are situated around the "Three Peaks" area (Ingleborough, Pen-y-Ghent and Wharfedale). You may well visit one of the following caves when you are up in the area. Gaping Gill, on the flank of Ingleborough, contains an impressive 100m shaft into Gaping Gill Main Chamber, forming the highest single-drop waterfall in Britain. The Main Chamber is the second largest underground chamber in the country and although it is possible to descend the main shaft directly, the most common way in is through one of the other four entrances. On the other side of Ingleborough is Alum Pot which is a vast open hole in the ground over 80m deep. Again, it is more usual to get to the bottom of this via other routes with smaller pitches (drops). The Lancaster-Easegill System is one of the longest cave systems in the country. At the bottom of the system is a fine stream passage which makes the visit most memorable.

A description of Yorkshire would not be complete without mentioning the Helwith Bridge Inn which has a good selection of ales and is where you will find many other cavers.

### SOUTH WALES:

Welsh caves tend to have developed along gentle gradients and can form vast horizontal networks. Many caves in South Wales have large passages with streams flowing down them and so a wetsuit is useful or even essential in some places.

A cave frequently visited by the club is Ogof Ffynnon Ddu (OFD.); the deepest cave in Britain (1010 ft). Being over 40 miles in length, there is something for everyone, from awesome streamways to stunning formations. This cave is part of the "Big Five". The others are Dan-yr-Ogof (starts in a show cave), Agen

Allwedd ('Aggie'), Ogof-y-Daren Cilau (known for its entrance crawl and underground camps) and Ogof Craig-a-Ffynnon.

Another cave worthy of mention is Little Neath River Cave. It was first explored by members of the UBSS in 1967. This wet cave carries the whole of the Afon Nedd (River Neath) as it sinks underground into the limestone.

#### DERBYSHIRE:

A feature of Derbyshire caves is the number of systems which combine both natural caves and mines. The area contains a wide variety of trips, most of which involve SRT but a few do not, such as Carlswark and Streaks.

P8 is an exciting streamway cave but is also ideal for learning SRT in, as is Knotlow. Titan contains the largest known shaft in Britain at 141.5 metres deep. This connects with several other fine caves including Peak Cavern and JH (James Hall Over Engine Mine).

#### DEVON:

Small passages and copious amounts of mud abound in Devon caves. Very pleasant sections can be found, however, if you are willing to try hard enough. There are very few stream systems and most of the larger caves are dry phreatic mazes, such as the Bakers-Reeds System (length c.3km) and Pridhamsleigh Cavern (length c.1km).

A wide variety of metals were mined in Devon. Many of these mine workings are still open and of considerable size and interest. The Dartmoor tin mines are quite entertaining, with plenty of water and few access problems. Scientifically, the area is of considerable interest, with some of Britain's most important bone caves and archaeological sites, such as Kent's Cavern. Also of interest are the coastal caves around Torbay and granite caves on Dartmoor.

#### FOREST OF DEAN:

The Forest of Dean is home to the well known cave Otter Hole. This is near a tidal river and so anyone wanting a reasonable length trip enters while the tide is low and then the entrance will seal up with water while the tide is high and they are in the cave. The trips are timed to come out when the tide has lowered again. Other popular caves are Slaughter Stream Cave and Miss Graces Lane. There are many mines in the area too.

## EXPEDITION CAVING

When you go down a cave in Britain, you can be sure that the cave has been visited by many cavers before you. The only way you are likely to find new sections is by digging choked passages (very hard work) or by diving sumps (dangerous). Expedition caving abroad offers the opportunity to discover new caves or passages. Grants are available to help with costs.

In many parts of Europe, Asia, South America and Australasia there are vast areas of unexplored Karst. These have the potential to contain thousands of miles of unexplored cave passage, caverns measureless to man, pitches reaching unfathomable depths and... anyway, there are many caves left to be explored. Unlike mountains, though, no one knows where they are! One aim of an expedition is to find a major cave that goes deep (the depth record is at present is 2191m in Krubera cave, Georgia). Failing depth, expeditions are more than happy to discover caves which contain large passages, chambers or river systems.

In the past, the UBSS has sent expeditions to many parts of Europe, including the Totes Gebirge in Austria. This is a largely unexplored limestone plateau 40 miles east of Salzburg, where they discovered and explored a previously unknown cave to a depth greater than -300m (nearly twice as deep as the deepest Mendip cave).

UBSS members have also been on expeditions to Thailand, Turkmenia in Soviet Central Asia, Mulu in Eastern Malaysia, India and Co. Clare in Ireland. In 2011 many members went to the Totes Gebirge in Austria and others went on the OUCC Xitu expedition and the Cueva del Agua expedition in Tresviso Spain.

Expedition caving can be very hard work as a lot of planning can be required, as well as long walks searching for caves when you are there. However, you will be well rewarded with the sense of discovery and the chance to visit and survey caves for the first time.

## APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE TRATMAN FUND

This Fund originates from the bequest to the University by Prof. E.K. Tratman who died in 1978. 'Trat' had been a member of UBSS since 1919 and was our President from 1948 to 1972. In his lifetime he led numerous caving expeditions and archaeological excavations. The arrangements for the Fund stem from proposals made in 1979 by Dr Allan Rogers and Prof. Bob Savage. Ask the committee for further details of applying for grants.

### APPLICATIONS

Applications should come via the Committee (who can make comments), so that applications will be on behalf of the Society, not individuals - similarly grants are made to the Society, not to individuals. For information to be covered in applications, please ask the committee.

Depending on results and conditions which may be imposed by other funding bodies we would expect that if appropriate a report suitable for publication in our Proceedings would be provided in due course.

As the total sum available in any one year is not likely to be large and there may be others applying, you'll be wise to get your application in early. Other things being equal, preference will be given to applications from student members. Members should be prepared to get only a proportion or even none of the sums applied for.

### DEADLINES

Applications for grants for 'fieldwork' for the Christmas and Easter vacations and the intervening period should reach the President by November, those for the summer period by May. Applications for grants to assist publication in the Society's Proceedings, or other publications by the Society, of research by members should normally be made by October. For exact dates, contact the committee.

## THE UBSS - A BRIEF HISTORY

The history of the UBSS (University of Bristol Speleological Society) ought to begin in 1919 when the society was founded but, as might be expected, this is only half the story. The direct predecessor was known as the Bristol Speleological Research Society (BSRS) and was formed in the spring of 1912. Its object was to study caves in a more scientific manner than had previously been thought necessary. The Society had four original projects: the attempted re-opening of Plumley's Hole in Burrington Combe; the re-exploration of Lamb Leer Cavern; the measurement of the evaporation in Eastwater cavern and an archaeological excavation in Aveline's Hole, also in Burrington. This latter cave proved to be very important for the study of early man on Mendip, as the excavation unearthed a large number of palaeolithic skulls and other bones. More recently (2002), it has been suggested as the oldest 'cemetery' in Britain, at around 9000 years old.

The Great War then intervened and no more work was done until the members returned from their war service. In view of the importance of Aveline's Hole, the landowner, George (later Sir George) Wills, decided that further investigation should be done under the auspices of the University and so the UBSS was formed. As only one member of the BSRS was at the University at this time, the rules for membership of the society allowed for the election of outside members, and uniquely among caving clubs at that time, women were allowed to join on an equal footing with men. The Society, having always allowed the election of former students and 'outside' members, benefits from a large number of highly knowledgeable members. The original objectives of the UBSS were "the discovery of caves and the examination of their contents". Since 1919, other objectives have been added, contributing to the varied nature of the society, which include: archaeological excavations; the development of a museum and library; the holding of regular lectures (known as Sessional Meetings) and the establishment of our Field Headquarters in Burrington.

Probably the oldest 'member' of the society still present is our hut. Its history dates back beyond living memory and started as a ladies cricket pavilion at Bower Ashton. It was bought for our society by our first president, Professor Edward Fawcett, for £5. It was dismantled on 31st December 1919, transported to Burrington on the back of a lorry and reassembled in a field belonging to George Wills. Daylight was fading and it was snowing when the roof was put on. This led to it being done in a hurry and the roof went on a bit crooked. It still is! Over the years, the hut has been extended, modified and modernised.

Visitors can now enjoy such luxuries as hot and cold running water, lights, wood burning stove and new mattresses! We also have caves, albeit small ones, right on its doorstep.

## UBSS FACILITIES

**The Stables** house our Museum and Library. They are to be found behind the German Dept. on Woodland Rd. Access is via a committee member with a key.

**The Library** houses one of the finest collections of caving books and journals in the country. We obtain a great many British and foreign publications by way of exchanging our Proceedings for the journals produced by other clubs and organisations. We also have a large number of cave surveys and a good collection of maps, covering in particular, Mendip and Co. Clare, Eire. New caving books are constantly being added to the library and you will also be able to find guide books and information on most caving and mining areas in this country, as well as abroad.

Most books and some other materials may be borrowed by members, with the exception of some unique and valuable items and journals (except by special arrangement with the librarian). Everything borrowed must be signed out by a committee member in the book provided and kept for no longer than four weeks. A copy of the library rules is on display in the 'Stables'. Our librarian (see Contacts section) is willing to help anyone doing research, so if you require specific information then ask, and if we haven't got what you want, you can probably be pointed in the right direction.

**The Museum** contains a very good collection of archaeological material mainly from the Mendip area, which is available to anyone studying the local prehistoric and Roman periods. There is also an excellent comparative bone collection - useful for discovering what really is in those hall meals! Members of the society have been involved in, amongst other things, excavations of Gough's Cave in Cheddar and at Westbury-sub-Mendip Quarry.

There is an excellent display of some of our best material, along with a historical exhibit about our club, on the ground floor. Anybody is most welcome to come and view the museum - it is best to contact our curator (see Contacts section) find the best time. There is still work continuing on the collection, often on Tuesday nights before going to the pub, so if you feel like helping, do get in contact.

The club's **Tackle Store** is situated in the union building. It can be found round the back of the union by the loading bay. This is often the meeting place for caving trips. Access is through committee members.

All equipment borrowed must be signed out in the book provided, and must be returned straight after use, cleaned (the tackle store has washing facilities) and

ropes properly coiled. Further details of kit and how to look after it is available in the tackle store.

We also have **our own cosy hut** to stay in on Mendip – see ‘The UBSS – A Brief History’ section.



**The UBSS Facebook Group:** Just search 'UBSS' and you'll find it

**Twitter:** Whatley Mammoth @UBSSmuseum

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Find people in the pub on Tuesdays or contact the appropriate person below  
(Student President or Honorary Secretary for general enquiries):

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Elaine Oliver       | Honorary President                                   | president@ubss.org.uk                                      |
| Clive Owen          | Vice President                                       | cliveowen@plot17.net                                       |
| Mia Jacobs          | Student President                                    | secretary@ubss.org.uk or<br>ov19714@bristol.ac.uk          |
| Stanley Lewis       | Secretary  | secretary@ubss.org.uk<br>or ot21396@bristol.ac.uk          |
| Jess Brock          | Tackle Warden,<br>Training Officer &<br>Social Media | ad21783@bristol.ac.uk                                      |
| Dan Hill            | Trips Secretary &<br>Fresher Secretary               | we19631@bristol.ac.uk                                      |
| Graham Mullan       | Honorary Treasurer                                   | treasurer@ubss.org.uk                                      |
| Ryan White          | Student Treasurer                                    | kc22625@bristol.ac.uk                                      |
| Jake Reich          | Equality Officer &<br>Midweek Caving<br>Officer      | jake.reich@bristol.ac.uk                                   |
| Michael Farmer      | Joint Social Secretary                               | xy20887@bristol.ac.uk                                      |
| Felix<br>Arnautovic | Joint Social Secretary &<br>Student Hut Warden       | bi21767@bristol.ac.uk                                      |
| Merryn<br>Matthews  | Safety Officer                                       | safety@ubss.org.uk or<br>merryn.matthews@hotmail.c<br>o.uk |
| Linda Wilson        | Newsletter Editor &<br>Museum Curator                | museum@ubss.org.uk   |
| Tony Boycott        | Sales Manager  | sales@ubss.org.uk  |
| Liz Green           | Hut Warden   | liz.green17@yahoo.co.uk                                    |

