

Welcome to 'the Chelsea'

The club was founded in 1956 by cavers in the London area - hence the name Chelsea.

Now there are around 100 members, living all over the UK, ranging from novices to experienced cavers with expertise in all aspects of caving including including cave diving, surveying, photography, art, digging, cave science and cave rescue.

The main focus of our caving activity is in South Wales, based at our cottage, Whitewalls, on the hillside above Llangattock, near Crickhowell in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Some of the largest caves in the UK are within walking distance of our front door.



Photo: Steve Sharp

Whitewalls has sleeping accommodation for 16 people, a well-equipped kitchen, common room, library room, central heating, changing and shower facilities, a garden and camping area, and car parking adjacent.

We hold weekend caving meets at least monthly. Those based at Whitewalls often combine a social event on the Saturday evening like a summer barbecue, curry night, November bonfire party and club dinner. We arrange trips around the UK in caving areas such as the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Mendip Hills, as well as other parts of Wales, and also caving trips abroad.

We occasionally run non-caving weekends such as kayak trips, walking and mountain biking.



Photo: Steve Sharp



Photo: Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

CHELSEA SPELÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Cover Photo: Steve Sharp

Explore the amazing world beneath your feet

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Come caving with CSS

Most of our current members come from across South Wales and southern England.

Our cottage, Whitewalls, is situated above Crickhowell on the tramroad adjacent to the limestone massif of Mynydd Llangatwg (Llangattock Mountain).

This has some of the longest and largest caves in the country with 65+ kms of explored passages.

Stay at Whitewalls Cottage

CSS offers bunkhouse accommodation at Whitewalls, its warm, well-equipped cottage. You don't have to be a CSS member to stay, but members have priority when booking. Check our website for more details.



Photo: Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

Are you new to caving?

CSS welcomes new members, offering them the opportunity to make new friends and to learn new skills, exploring the underground world one cave at a time.

Beneath Llangattock Mountain cavers can enjoy trips ranging from simple excursions suitable for novices to extreme, sporting challenges through many miles of beautiful and varied passage, with some of the finest cave decorations in the UK. CSS members know these caves better than most and continue to be involved in their exploration.

Full details about membership and how to join the club are on our website www.chelseaspelaeo.org.

Photo: Steve Sharp

Benefits of joining CSS

- A perfect base for cave exploration
- Regular meets and social events
- A wealth of expertise to draw upon
- A friendly and inclusive club
- Centrally-heated cottage for 16 people
- A well-equipped kitchen & common room
- Changing area with showers
- Library & caving tackle store
- Access to keys for restricted caves
- Detailed surveys of the local cave systems
- Regular publications
- British Caving Association, British Cave Research Association, & Cambrian Caving Council membership



Photo: Steve Sharp

Llangattock Mountain holds some of the finest caves in the UK, with much more still to be found

join us for a journey of discovery!

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