



The British Caving Association Membership News September 2023

2024 Membership fees

The BCA is pleased to announce that for another year there will be no increase in membership fees for 2024.

Current BCA membership fees are
Clubs:

- £25 for club membership
- £60 extra for clubs with huts, or those that control access to a cave or mine. (but clubs that do both only need to pay this once)

Club or individual BCA members for a full year membership:

- £20 for caving membership
- £6 for non-caving membership
- £8 for a full time student membership
- Free of charge for all under 18s.

Please remember you can update the BCA on new members/ re-joiners at any point throughout the year but as a minimum should be updating your membership details quarterly.

Look out for: BCRA membership rates for 2024 will soon be confirmed and communicated to all members.

BCA getting greener..... by sending out less green

The BCA has decided to be more green, by posting out less green (and other colour!) plastic cards. From 2024 we will be sending out e-cards to our members, via club representatives for club members. These will provide the same information as on the plastic cards and will be in a form that can be saved on a mobile device, or printed if need be.

Currently the BCA prints and posts over 7000 plastic cards per year. As well as the impact of these cards, that are in use for a single year, there is also a large amount of envelopes and packaging associated with distributing these.

Over 4500 of these are green club cards that club representatives then have to distribute to their members. So hopefully the new e-cards will make things easier and cheaper for clubs to distribute to their membership!

We are sure the majority of our membership will embrace this change and readily adapt to the e-cards. However for 2024 and, only whilst card stocks last, we may be able to supply plastic cards to clubs/ members who specifically feel they need one and request one.

Hidden Earth 2024



Katie Eavis, BCA Membership Administrator
membership@british-caving.org.uk
<https://british-caving.org.uk>

After a three year break, due to Covid, Hidden Earth is back and brilliant! This year's event was held at a new venue in Gordano, Nr Bristol in the middle of September. It was fantastic to get the UK caving community back together for lectures, competitions, shopping, socialising and more.

The BCA would like to thank all the hard-working volunteers who made the event happen.

For me personally it was great to be back at Hidden Earth and put some faces to a few of the many names I have been emailing about BCA membership over the last few years.

I am already looking forward to Hidden Earth 2024!

A message from Ghar Parau: Buy some charity Christmas cards for the 2023 festive season



Though posting Christmas cards has declined with the advent of other forms of communication it is estimated that 1 billion cards are still posted in the UK each December. Of those 50% are charity cards, used as a way of raising funds for various charities.

The Ghar Parau Foundation is a UK charity whose aim is to financially support UK cavers exploring cave systems around the world. In its 50 year history it has sponsored many such

trips and the amount donated approaches £300,000.

Ghar Parau card sets that can be bought at £8 for 10 or £15 for 20, they are splendid photographs taken by some of the best cave photographers around. There is no message inside so are perfect for any occasion. 100% of the monies raised goes into sponsoring UK cavers as GPF is run entirely by volunteers. Please visit the Ghar Parau website and go to the shopping page for more details.

<https://www.gharparau.org.uk/shop/>

Your support for UK cavers exploring is appreciated.

Howard Jones GPF Secretary

BCA Artificial Cave

Don't forget the BCA has an artificial cave you can borrow for your club events! Nottingham University Caving Clubs recently borrowed the cave for an event to recruit freshers into caving – they reported the cave was big hit and a really useful addition.

The cave is mobile, and stored in a box trailer in Derbyshire. It can be booked for £25 per event.

For more details or to book the cave please email artificial.cave@british-caving.org.uk



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