Chelsea Spelæological Society

Old Darren Sunday School

Location

The Old Darren Sunday School is situated on the grassy slope opposite Whitewalls, accessed via a curved concrete path 50m beyond the cottage. Follow directions to Whitewalls found on the CSS website (marked as CSS Whitewalls on Google maps).

what3words: thumb.equipping.host **OS grid reference:** SO 2044 1579 **Post Code:** NP8 1LG

On Arrival

- Please park cars neatly. **Do not park in front of the neighbouring property and ensure you have left vehicle access to the cottage further along the track**.
- The door is fitted with an electronic lock which can be opened by either a key fob (located in the Whitewalls changing room key cupboard) or a key code (obtainable from Cottage Warden at time of booking). Once opened the door will automatically re-lock after a few seconds, but can be put on the latch if required.
- **Water** can be turned on using the stop cock under the sink in the toilet.
- For fire safety reasons, please ensure you **unfasten the window shutters** on upon arrival.
- All persons staying must **sign in** the cottage logbook.

Heating and Water

- The floor of the main common room in the ODSS is equipped with underfloor heating, but this is expensive to run and takes time to heat up, so please use the electric fan heaters and log burner instead.
- All wood and kindling for the log burner is provided free of charge. This is stored in the wood shed to the right of the front door; the key should be hung in the hallway. *(Note: wood should not be taken from the log store behind Whitewalls as this is not yet seasoned).*
- There is an electric water heater for the kitchen sink; press the “boost” button above the sink to operate. It may take a while to heat up from cold.

Other Points to Note

- For group bookings, the person who booked your stay is responsible for the well-being of the premises.
- **NO SMOKING or VAPING** inside the building (this rule also applies to Whitewalls).
- **Caving kit is not to be brought inside the ODSS**. Please use the changing room at Whitewalls for changing and drying kit. *Whitewalls front and side doors are openable by key fob (held over the word “card” marked with a white spot) or key code (touch panel to illuminate numbers, enter code then #).*
- When accessing Whitewalls, please use the side door when wearing dirty caving kit and be sure to lock the door when leaving (press and hold the # key) if it’s not in use by another group. (*Note: For fire safety reasons the door remains openable from the inside when locked, so should be checked from outside*).
- Please ensure that the Old Darren Sunday School is locked whenever you’re away from the premises.
- A recycling bin is provided for glass, cans, plastic and cardboard.
- Please report any damages or defects to the Cottage Warden (e.g. low battery in smoke alarm, blown lightbulbs, use of fire extinguishers etc). It is in everyone’s interest that these are dealt with as early as possible.
- If consumables are running low (washing up liquid, soap, toilet rolls, tea towels etc) and there are none in the cupboard, please notify the Cottage Warden or obtain replacements from Whitewalls if that has plenty.

On Departure

- **Please ensure that the premises are clean and tidy before leaving**. Sweep and mop the floor and wipe down all tables and work surfaces.
- **Clean out the log burner**, using the ash bin in the fireplace for ash (cold ash only) and returning all unused wood to the wood shed.
- **General waste** sacks can be disposed of in the wheelie bin marked "CSS" at the start of the track. If this bin is full then use any other bin that has room. Please ensure the lids are fully shut, or the birds will pull the contents out.
- The **recycling** pick up is also at the start of the track (next to the bins). Please sort your recycling into the correct plastic containers and place the "glass" container on top of the "cardboard" one to avoid the contents being blown down the hillside.
- **Switch off the fridge** and leave the door open. Do not leave any food, especially perishables.
- **Turn off the water** (stop cock under the sink in the toilet).
- Close and **lock the window shutters**.
- **Switch OFF all lights** before leaving.
- Ensure that the **front door is locked** (and log store too) and key fob returned.

Note: Bin bags are supplied for the rubbish, **NOT** to take your wet gear home in! Please bring your own bags for this purpose.

Payment and Fees

Overflow use: The Old Darren Sunday School may be used as alternative accommodation by CSS members and their guests (or by visiting groups at the Cottage Wardens discretion) at any time that Whitewalls is full, provided there is not already a booking for exclusive use. **Please consult the bookings calendar beforehand and inform the Cottage Warden of your intention to stay.**

In these instances the fee will be the same as at Whitewalls - **£5 members, £8 non-members**

Exclusive Use: This property may also be booked for "exclusive use" for members and their families, during which time other members may not enter the Old Darren Sunday School without invitation.

In these instances a **flat rate of £40 per night** is charged. This must be paid in advance. In the event of cancellation the full amount will be refunded if at least one month's notice is given, or a 50% refund if less notice is given.

Please note: *You may only book one exclusive use stay at a time, which in the interests of fairness to others should not exceed more one booking per six months. However, a short-notice booking can still be made (up to two weeks in advance) if the ODSS happens to be available during that time.*

Non-member Exclusive Use: Although the Old Darren Sunday School is not intended to be used by non-members, bookings may occasionally be granted at the Cottage Warden's discretion. In these instances a **flat rate of £50 per night** will be charged.

Revised Nov 2026