

Media Release

Yorkshire Subterranean Society celebrates 50 years opening its new training facility from sporting legacy fund

14 October 2014

- Yorkshire Subterranean Society uses National Lottery funding from Sport England to build specialised rope training facility for use by all cavers.
- Rope training Facility open event 18 October 2014 at 14:00
- Yorkshire Subterranean Society reaches 50th Anniversary
- Try Caving Event Takes Place on the 01 November 2014



Left: YSS Members on Summer Caving Expedition in France.

The Yorkshire Subterranean Society caving club in North Yorkshire celebrates its 50th Anniversary on the 18th October 2014 in Settle. As part of the celebrations the caving club will also open their new training facility that secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's *Inspired Facilities* fund.

The [Yorkshire Subterranean Society](#) received £20,000 National Lottery funding to upgrade the facilities at their clubhouse, to provide a specialised rope training facility for use by all cavers. The new facility is a two-storey-high extension on the side of our existing building providing a warm, dry area with an array of platforms, bolts and beams allowing up to 6 cavers at a time to train and practice the rope work needed for safe, modern caving, ranging from the most basic through to advanced rescue techniques.

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Throughout its history the Yorkshire Subterranean Society has regularly held coach trips to caving areas from Pontefract to the Yorkshire Dales and Derbyshire providing an affordable way for cavers and walkers to access the outdoors, in the 1980's they purchased an old school building in the Yorkshire Dales (with Sport England assistance) and developed this in to the headquarters they have today. The society has conducted a number of foreign expedition to caving areas across the world.

The Yorkshire Subterranean Society through the [British Caving Association's Try Caving](#) initiative has helped hundreds of people experience caving since 2007. They will be running a [Try Caving](#) event on 01 November 2014, where participants will be able to use the facility for the first time. Please contact Paul.geddes@yssuk.com to book (Places are limited).

Member, Chris Tate, said: "Over the last 50 years we have aimed to make caving accessible to people through our regular coach trips (from 1964 to 2006) to the Yorkshire Dales, affordable accommodation in the heart of Yorkshire caving country, caving expeditions and more recently through our successful Try Caving events. That aim has seen our members explore the deepest caves in the world and have been part of record breaking achievements. Our new facility continues the tradition of introducing people to the sport.

Julian Smith, Member of Parliament for Skipton and Ripon, said: "I want to congratulate the Yorkshire Subterranean Society on their 50th anniversary and it is particularly fitting they are marking it by opening their new training facility. I have been determined that the benefits of the 2012 London Olympics should be felt across my constituency and this is a great example of how the legacy is making a difference here. The new facility in Settle will help ensure the Society goes from strength to strength in its next 50 years."

Damian Weare, British Caving Association Secretary, said "British cavers are at the forefront of exploring the world's greatest caves and it is fantastic to see the sport recognised by Sport England. We are very grateful to Sport England and the YSS for providing a first-class facility."

You can find out more about caving and the Yorkshire Subterranean Society at:

<http://www.yssuk.com/> <http://british-caving.org.uk/?page=1>
<http://www.trycaving.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yssuk/>
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ENDS

Notes to Editors

For more details about the project, please contact Chris Tate on 07796265046 or yorksubsoc@hotmail.co.uk