



Kents Cavern Ltd, 91 Ilsham Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 2JF
Tel: 01803 215136

nickpowe@kents-cavern.co.uk www.kents-cavern.co.uk

Tuesday 15th April 2014

Kents Cavern launches adult only tours

Kents Cavern, Torquay's award winning prehistoric caves, launches a new tour aimed exclusively at visitors aged 16 and over. The tours are led by an experienced guide and allow visitors greater opportunities to interact with their guide, take photos, examine formations closely and learn more about the geology and archaeology of Kents Cavern and the English Riviera Global Geopark.

James Hull, general manager said: "We trialled these tours last year in response to comments on TripAdvisor and other feedback where visitors were suggesting a more specialist tour, a bit more factually and scientific and, in particular, giving them more time to take photos of the caves. The format went down really well and we've now introduced the Adult Photo Tours as a permanent tour every week."

Tours are restricted to 30 guests and run on Fridays at 3:15pm from 25th April 2014. They can be booked on line at www.kents-cavern.co.uk and cost £9.25 per person.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITOR

- *For further information, including filming or for any other interview or photography requests please contact Nick Powe by e-mail: nickpowe@kents-cavern.co.uk*
- **Key facts about Kents Cavern**

The first systematic excavation of the caves was in 1825 by Father John MacEnery, a Roman Catholic priest. He unearthed bones of extinct prehistoric animal. Nothing unusual in that at the time but what was to prove so controversial was that lying next to these buried remains of mammoths, sabre toothed cats, hyenas and other Ice Age animals were stone tools shaped by human hands. Could humans really have lived on earth with these animals? This is controversial enough today but was unimaginable back then, especially for a deeply religious man. MacEnery's findings inspired the Great Excavation of Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. This pioneering excavation was masterminded by William Pengelly who employed George Smerdon as his foreman. Pengelly's recordings provided scientific proof for the antiquity of humankind. The archaeological recording technique he invented, a step and grid system, would not be repeated anywhere else for decades.

*Kents Cavern has the highest level of state protection in Britain as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is a nature conservation site (SSSI). The cave made international headlines in November 2011 when a human jawbone was dated at over 41,000 years old, making it the oldest human fossil in northwestern Europe. The Kents Cavern fossil is on display at the Natural History Museum, London in "**Britain: 1 million years of the human story**"*

Kents Cavern is recognised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as a key gateway site for the English Riviera Global Geopark, a designation awarded to 100 territories across the world with outstanding geology and high cultural heritage value.