

**Geologists' Association - South Wales Group** *Cymdeithas y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru*



**June 2017**

**Fifty-ninth session**

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<b>Other members of the committee:</b> Tom Sharpe, Nigel McGaw, Cindy Howells, Geraint Owen, John Nudds.			

The first two field meetings of the year have taken place. John Nicklin, the leader of the first, to Martley in Worcestershire, has written up the trip on the Teme Valley Geological Society web site. You can read this at [http://www.geo-village.eu/?page\\_id=472](http://www.geo-village.eu/?page_id=472)



**SUMMER FIELD MEETING PROGRAMME 2017 - Stephen Howe**

Members attending field meetings are reminded that they should make themselves aware of the Group's Safety Code. Also, although an outline of the excursion and the conditions likely to be experienced are given in advance, weather and access conditions on the day can result in a different itinerary and harder walking conditions. Although full Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to each field meeting members are reminded that they attend field excursions at their own risk. They are expected to take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and other participants and to behave in a responsible manner at all times. The Group has a Safety Policy and Safety Fieldwork Code that all participants should have read prior to attending a meeting. Copies can be found on the Group's web site.

**Saturday 24th June:** The Portishead Coast (Joint meeting with the Royal Geographical Society Western Group) **Leader: Mark Howson**

Meet at 10:00 am at the Windmill Inn, 58 Nore Road, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6JZ (ST 458 767)

The day will be split into 7 units including 3 breaks, so you are free to come for as long as you want. Mark has run this excursion before and has commented that nobody has got beyond unit 6 to date! Lunch will be taken at the Royal Inn and closer to the date of the excursion the menu will be circulated so anybody wishing to eat can let me know in advance so that we can pre-order food.

10:00 to 12:30, We walk from the Windmill Inn to Fisherman's Steps, along the sea cliffs to the Esplanade (0.75Km) looking at Devonian and Triassic rocks, including the Portishead Fish Bed and fossils and structures.

12:30 to 14:00 Lunch break – picnic or walk/lift to The Royal Inn for pub lunch.

14:00 to 15:00 We go from The Royal Inn car park entrance to the Viewpoint on Woodlands Road (0.75 Km) looking at the Carboniferous Pennant Sandstone and its fossil plants as well as the Triassic with its celestite/ barite.

15:00 to 15:20 Short break – walk/lift to The Lido Café at the Open Air Swimming Pool.

15:20 to 17:00 From the Lido Café to Woodhill Bay and then Battery Point (0.5Km) looking at dolomitic Carboniferous Limestones, mineral vugs and fold structures.

17:00 to 18:00 Tea break – picnic / The Lido café / Lakeside Café / The Windmill Inn. Lift if needed (1Km).

18:00 to 20:00 Ashdown Bay from car park at northern end of Nichol's Road, BS20 8DT. Trace fossils in the Early Devonian Black Nore Sandstone.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** Manorbier, Pembrokeshire, **Leader: Sid Howells**

Meet at 10:00 am at the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park car park below Manorbier Castle (SS 063 977)

The excursion will cover a walking distance of about 6 miles over a figure of eight route. It is moderately strenuous but with various opt out points. Bring a packed lunch. We will see Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous Limestone sequences, structural geology (folds and faults), enigmatic 'gash breccias' and coastal geomorphology including evidence of glacial and periglacial processes.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August:** The Old Red Sandstone of the Ruperra area near Cardiff, **Leaders: Tom Sharpe and John Davies.**

Meet at 10:30 am at Coed Llwyncelyn car park, near Rudry (ST 202 854)

It is planned to visit outcrops of the Ruperra Limestone and Llanishen Conglomerate Formation in the area between Lisvane and Draethen to study the relationship between these two units. Clearance work by the South Wales RIGS group has revealed unexpected relationships and a possible re-definition of the Ruperra Limestone itself. The intention is to visit two locations other than the RIGS excavation in Coed Craig Ruperra nature reserve. There are some short, but steep, slopes to be negotiated and a walk of up to 1Km. Either bring a packed lunch or lunch can be taken at a local hostelry.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September:** Caerfai Bay and St Nons, St Davids, **Leader: Nigel Clarke**

Meet at 10:30 am at the Caerfai Bay Car Park (SM 759 243)

From the East follow the signs first to Haverfordwest and then St Davids (A487). Just as you reach St Davids take the left hand lane signposted to Caerfai Bay. The car park is approximately 2 miles down a narrow lane on the cliff top at the end of the road.

The excursion will involve a walk of about 6 Km along the coast between St Nons and Caerbwdy Bay mostly along cliff top paths with an optional descent by steep path/steps down into Caerbwdy Bay for closer examination of the geology. We will be looking at the structures in the Cambrian rocks and various features of the Cambrian/Pre-Cambrian rocks on either side of the boundary as well as viewing the spectacular coastal scenery and the Iron Age fort and diorite inclusions as time permits. The exact itinerary, depending upon time and tides, will be decided on the day.

## **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Geoconservation in Swansea**

### **Leaders: Geraint Owen and Hazel Trenbirth**

Meet at 10:00am at the pay and display car park at the Clements Quarry SSSI in Mumbles (SS 615 883). Please be aware it is the farmers market that day and will be busy. This quarry exposes the uppermost Brigantian Oystermouth Formation (Carboniferous Limestone) the marine shales and muddy limestones of which contain brachiopods, corals and the trilobite *Griffithides*.

The second stop will be at the West Cross Pericline recently identified by the South East Wales RIGS Group (SEWRIG) as a RIGS site. There is parking nearby in the small car park near the row of shops opposite the foreshore. The pericline is developed in Namurian Shales that are exposed on the foreshore (SS 614 895). Also to be seen is a sequence of Upper Carboniferous shales and sandstones with a range of sedimentary structures.

Lunch will be at the Woodman Inn where car parking is available. After lunch we will stroll up the Clyne Valley to the Killay Brick Pits (SS 602 920) where there are exposures of the Coal Measures with fossiliferous shales as well as industrial archaeological remains from the brick making industry. SEWRIG has selected this site to be designated a RIGS site and recommends some site clearance to make the geology visible. It is a muddy site and the ground uneven. The first two sites have easy access for those with limited mobility. Killay Brick Pits is likely to be muddy and the ground is very uneven. There might be a bit of a fight through the undergrowth!

## **Winter Session 2017 – 18**

Planning for the next indoor session is progressing and details will be forthcoming in the next Newsletter. The Programme Secretary is always open to suggestions of speakers preferably with a contact email/address so if anybody has any ideas let him know. For your diary:

### **2017**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>/Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – *GA Annual Conference* - National Museum Cardiff

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Swansea

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Cardiff

### **2018**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – *Holiday Geology* – National Museum Cardiff

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Swansea

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Cardiff

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March – *AGM & Presidential Address* – Swansea

**Stephen**

## OTHER EVENTS

### GA Annual Conference 2017-02-12

The Geologists Association annual conference will be held in Cardiff this year over the weekend of 21st / 22nd October on the theme of Climate Past, Present and Future. On Saturday 21st October there will be a day of lectures in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre at the National Museum in Cardiff and there are already a number of excellent speakers lined up. Sunday 22nd October will be a day of local field meetings. Due to the scale of the meeting there will be an admission charge with GA members receiving a discounted rate of £30:00, which will include refreshments and lunch on the Saturday. Full details will appear in due course.

#### Volunteers Needed

On Saturday 29th July we are revisiting Tredegar House with a stand with 'gold' panning and other activities similar activities. Help would be very welcome. Please let us know if you are able to come and /or need more information.

Finally help would be appreciated on Saturday 21st October at Reardon Smith / Museum. This will probably involve guiding visitors at the GA Conference. Please register an interest at this stage and we can supply you with more information as it becomes available.

For all of these the contacts are Janet Hiscott at [secretary@swga.org](mailto:secretary@swga.org) .uk or Caroline Davies at [membership@swga.org](mailto:membership@swga.org).uk or by post. Full contact details are also in header of this newsletter.



#### Programme Cards

As you will see we are not producing cards as in the past but enclosed with this newsletter is a separate sheet with the same details. For most members the new format will replace the Membership Cards. These are still available and if you would like one posted to you please contact the Membership Secretary, Caroline Davies at [membership@swga.org](mailto:membership@swga.org) or text 07850 556947 or leave a message on that number.



#### RIGS

The South East Wales RIGS Group held their latest member's meeting at Rudry Village Hall on April 1st which included a visit to our first and main work site at nearby Ruperra Woods to discuss progress. Further progress has been made at our other work site at the Quarella Quarry, Wildmill, Bridgend. A start has been made on the Swansea RIGS project which has exciting potential. If you have an interest in protecting our geological heritage and want to get involved in practical projects please contact Nigel McGaw at 01656 654439 or email [nimar.nmcgaw@gmail.com](mailto:nimar.nmcgaw@gmail.com)

**Nigel**