

Geologists' Association - South Wales Group

Cymdeithas y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru



September 2017

Fifty-ninth session

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Safety Policy

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 and a resume can be found on the reverse of the Summer Field Meeting card.

Summer Programme 2017

There is one field trip left in this summer's programme.

Saturday 14th October: Geoconservation in Swansea Leaders: Geraint Owen and Hazel Trenbirth

Meet at 10.00 am at the pay and display car park at the Clements Quarry SSSI in Mumbles (SS 615 883). Please be aware that 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.



Winter Meetings 2017-18

The indoor winter lecture programme for the next Session is as follows:

Saturday/Sunday 21st/22nd October: **GA Conference** (National Museum Cardiff).
Further details below - its not too late to book!

Saturday 18th November 2017: **Jurassic Limestones:** Dr Tim Palmer [Aberystwyth University] (Swansea)

Saturday 16th December 2017: **New findings on the Pleistocene glacial history of Wales and neighbouring areas:** Dr Philip Hughes (Manchester University) (Cardiff)

Saturday 13th January 2018: **Holiday Geology:** (National Museum Cardiff)

Saturday 27th January: **Escuminac, Quebec - Revisited: a fishy tale.** Prof. Brian Williams [University of Aberdeen/ University College, Dublin] (Swansea)

Saturday 17th February: **Dinosaur embryos:** Dr John Nudds [Manchester University] (Cardiff)

Tuesday 6th March: **Volcanoes in Iceland:** Dr Ian Skilling [University of South Wales] (Cardiff)

Saturday 24th March: **AGM and Presidential Address: Extending a Pembrokeshire based Litho-stratigraphy for the Lower Devonian across the whole Anglo-Welsh Province:** Dr. John Davies (Swansea)

Holiday Geology 2018

Our annual *Holiday Geology* meeting takes place on Saturday 13th January 2018, once again in the National Museum Cardiff. As usual this is a chance for all you budding speakers to come and entertain your fellow members with tales of geology seen on your

travels or anything with a geological flavour, no matter how tenuous, that you think will be of interest. I will be looking for about 8-10 'volunteers' to fill the day's programme. Each talk should be for a **maximum** of 15 minutes but can be shorter if you wish. The meeting is still three months away so you have plenty of time to prepare! Please contact Stephen on steve.howe@talktalk.net



Other Events:

GA Annual Conference 2017

The GA Annual Conference on the theme of *Climate Past, Present and Future?* is being held at the National Museum, Cardiff on 21st/22nd October this year. All SWGA Members are welcome and can register for the conference at the **reduced rate** for GA Members through the main GA web site <https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/conferences.html>. There is a full day of 10 lectures on Saturday 21st October in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre at the National Museum and field trips on Sunday 22nd October.

The lectures are as follows:

Earth's Climate Evolution - a New Geological Perspective: Colin Summerhayes (Cambridge);

Escaping Snowball Earth: Ian Fairchild (Birmingham)

The impact of pioneering colonisers of the land on biosphere, lithosphere and atmosphere. Dianne Edwards (Cardiff)

Devonian plants, forests, atmospheres and climates: Chris Berry (Cardiff)

Come visit the jungles of South Wales – the Carboniferous coal-swamps. Chris Cleal (National Museum Cardiff)

Environmental impact of extreme climate change at the Permo-Triassic boundary. Andy Newell (BGS)

The Cretaceous greenhouse climate. The Cretaceous greenhouse climate: Hugh Jenkyns (Oxford)

Descent into the Icehouse: A Cenozoic perspective on climate change and ice sheet stability: Carrie Lear (Cardiff)

Larsen C ice shelf - the day before tomorrow? Suzanne Bevan (Swansea)

The Anthropocene. Jan Zalasiewicz (Leicester)/Colin Summerhayes (Cambridge)

South East Wales RIGS

The AGM will be held on Saturday 11 November at Pontneddfechan Village Hall in the morning followed by an afternoon field trip by Alan Bowring. Further details available for Nigel McGaw or Dilys Harlow. All welcome.

Quarella, Wildmill, Bridgend an open day has been arranged for Saturday, 30 September, to assess the work already carried out and future areas to be subject of work days and to review interpretation to date. All welcome

Cardiff University Public Lectures

This year's lectures are on the theme of 'Catastrophes: Past, Present and Potential'

The next lecture is on Tuesday 10th October 2018, 18.30 - 19.30: *A catastrophic beginning to Britain's island history and other stories*. Attendance is free - just turn up, no need to register. For more details of the programme see <http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/events/category/series/catastrophes-past-present-future/>



Membership Renewal

1st September is the start of our Membership Year - if you have not yet renewed please send your membership fee to Caroline Davies, Membership Secretary (contact details in the header). Or you could set up a standing order to pay annually - you will find the form on the SWGA website in the Contact Us tab. Page 2 is Standing Order and page 3 Gift Aid.

The fees are : Ordinary £10:00; Optional Concessionary £5:00 (this applies to unwaged people who would like to take advantage of the lower subscription fees); Family £10:00 + £5 for each additional family member

Feedback from the Fossil Bash at Tredegar Park

This comments was received from on the of the Visitor Experience Assistants at Tredegar House.

'I thought the day was really great – I particularly liked the hands on nature of the activity and that kids were really encouraged to get the hands dirty (as it were). I also thought the knowledge levels of the team was exceptional and again, really added to the experience. As an adult, it was fascinating to learn about and handle the fossils (they were very beautiful) and I thought the little titbits of 'this mineral is used in this medicine today' examples really helped to make it relevant and put things into context.'



Other Local Geological Organisations

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch: Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru): Tim Palmer tjp@aber.ac.uk or www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/welshstoneforum
- U3A South Wales Geology Group: Nigel McGaw. Tel: 01656 654439
- Open University Geological Society: Norman Nimmo-Smith ougs.org.uk/severnside
- West Wales Geology Society: www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk
- South East Wales RIGS : <http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>