

Geologists' Association - South Wales Group

Cymdeithas y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru



June 2018

Sixtieth session

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Other members of the committee: John Davies, Tom Sharpe, Nigel McGaw, Cindy Howells, Geraint Owen, John Nudds, Roger Liggins			

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 sheet.

Field Meetings

The first two field meetings of the year have been very successful although the numbers were low for the trip to Tortworth, which was a pity as it was a great trip with some superb fossils to be found. We also ran a number of displays at the Family Day, Craig-y-Nos, as part of the Geopark Festival. This was slightly quieter than previous years but our various elements attracted a good range of interest. These included: Gold panning (BGS),

handling fossil specimens (NMW), minerals to be found in your shopping basket (Dave Wellings and Lynda Garfield), fossil rubbing and colouring, RIGS.

The rest of the summer programme is as follows:



Saturday 16th June: Penderyn: disturbed ground.

Leader: Alan Bowring

Meet at 10.00am in the now redundant car park for St Cynog's Church, which is immediately to the south of the Red Lion pub at the top of the hill in Penderyn (SN 9452 0850 / CF44 9JR). Please avoid parking in the Red Lion car park which is immediately north of the pub as landlords Natalie and Richard Noble get very busy at weekends and customers can struggle to park. From here we will walk around and over Moel Penderyn looking at aspects of the Neath Disturbance and the legacies of the limestone and silica rock quarrying that fed the Hirwaun Ironworks. Though Moel Penderyn is one of the lower summits in the Geopark, the panoramic views from its summit are amongst the most rewarding, offering up Devonian and Carboniferous, agriculture/forestry and industry. We will also visit Sgwd yr Eira waterfall, which is on the Hepste nearby. Distance approximately (max) 4 miles, ascent 750 ft.

There will be some rough walking in parts. Finish about 4.00pm with an opportunity for refreshment in the Red Lion afterwards! If anyone has any questions regarding the day Alan is happy to help – 01874 620415 (wk) 01873 850847 (ho) or e-mail: alan.bowring@beacons-mpa.gov.uk. (Meeting Coordinator: Nigel McGaw)



Saturday 21st July: Flat Holm ** ADVANCED BOOKING AND PAYMENT ESSENTIAL

Leader: Chris Lee

Meet at 10.30 prompt at the Compass Cafe, Penarth Marina. Leave any cars at the pay and display car park (Bay Island Voyages blue container at entrance) on the right hand side beneath the scarp. Or if you prefer, catch the train to Cogan Station and walk down past Tescos to the café (about 15 mins). We will board the boats (RIBs) and catch the 1200 lock out of the Bay to sail across to Flat Holm for a 2/2.5 hour visit. Our return journey will entail a circuit of the island after which we will sail north to look at Sully Island from the seaward side and then cruise along the Jurassic / Triassic Coast to catch the 15.45 lock back into Cardiff Bay. We will be back in Penarth for 1600.

As the most southerly pub in Wales (the Gull and Leek) may or may not be open on the day you will need a packed lunch with a hot/cold drink. As the trip can be 'bumpy' (nautical term!) H&S precludes all those with back problems or who are pregnant. Otherwise just normal fitness levels are required. There is a steepish, stepped incline up from the island jetty but once on top it is pretty flat (the clue is in the name), with otherwise just the usual scrambles.

Bay Island Voyages will take a decision on whether the trip will go based on meteorological considerations some 48 hours before hand so there should be no last minute cancellations. If for any reason the boat cannot sail then you will get a full refund.

The cost is £30 for the boat plus a £5 landing fee giving a total price of £35. 2 boats are now fully booked but if we get enough bookings, a third one is available. You need to

book a place **and pay** in advance by **30th June**. Please contact Rhian Kendall on Rhian@carreg.org.uk to book a place. (*Meeting Coordinator: Rhian Kendall*).



Saturday 11th August: Family Geology Day, Penarth

Leaders: Cindy Howells & John Nudds

This is a public geological event aimed at encouraging families to come along and, hopefully, get interested in geology. We will be looking for fossils, minerals and rocks along the beach and pointing out other things of geological interest. This is an open-ended event where people can come for as long or short as they wish and we would be grateful for support from as many of you as is possible. If you are willing to attend and help out, even if only for a couple of hours, please let the Programme Secretary know in advance.



Saturday 15th September: Three Cliffs Bay and Ilston Gower

Leader: Paul Wright

Meet at 10.00am at the car park alongside the main road (A4118) in Penmaen, Gower (SS 527 884)

We will begin with a visit to Three Cliffs Bay. Here we will examine an early Carboniferous carbonate ramp succession, deposited during a 'greenhouse' interval, that shows the effects of a series of 3rd order-style sea level changes. These changes are reflected in the deposits that range from outer ramp settings to oolite shoals, and also low-stand features that include palaeokarst and palaeosols. A range of different types of stratigraphic surfaces will be examined besides true low-stand and transgressive ones.

We will then move to Ilston to examine 'ice-house' 4th order cyclothems and their bounding surfaces in order to contrast them with the 'greenhouse' sequence stratigraphic style seen in the morning. Comparisons will be made with near-identical deposits from the super-giant oil and gas fields of Kazakhstan. A packed lunch is required.



Saturday 13th October: Murchison versus Sedgwick – The field evidence for the disagreement.

Leader: John Davies

Meet at 10.30am on the top of Cwm Craig Ddu, on Mynydd Epynt (SN 963 466) where we will examine the nature of the Silurian and Ordovician rocks on the southeast side of the Tywi Structure. We will then make a traverse of the structure to the northwest, into the Cambrian Mountains, in the vicinity of Llanafan Fawr and Beulah, where we will visit a slate mine. There will be a stop on the Sugar Loaf before driving along the Tywi Structure to Maes-y-bont and home via Cross Hands. There is little walking involved on this excursion.

Pembrokeshire

Please note that the planned November weekend in Pembrokeshire with Brian Williams and Gareth George has been postponed until May 2019

Other Events 2018

The group will once again be participating in a few public events this year. At each we will be running some hands-on activities, showing specimens and publicising the Group. These are very rewarding days out and we are always looking for volunteers to help out on the day. If anybody is interested in volunteering for any of these please let the Secretary know.



Sunday 29th July 2018 : Tredegar House, Newport. This year we will be within the 'pay barrier' so if you are hoping to join us to assist on the stall and are not a National Trust member (and therefore entitled to free parking) please contact Caroline beforehand on membership@swga.org.uk and she can arrange for free entry and a car park pass for you.



Cardiff University, Autumn Public Lecture Series.

The theme this year is 'When sea levels change...'. The series starts on 11 September with 'Life's a Beach... the moon, tides and the emergence of terrestrial vertebrates': Steven Balbus (Oxford. The second talk will be on 9th October.'Its all relative: the ups, downs, tilting and rebounds of ancient sea level'. Peter Burgess (Liverpool). Full details of the programme will appear on the University website in due course.



Saturday 3rd November: GA Festival of Geology, UCL, London.



Programme Secretary and other roles

Although Stephen agreed the AGM to remain in post as Programme Secretary for the next 2 years, we still need to find a replacement for him. If necessary, it could be two or more people - it would be easy to split this into at least 2 sections: field events and lectures. If you can help or know someone who can, please let Janet, the group Secretary.



Other 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: Janet Hiscott ougs.org.uk/severnside
- West Wales Geology Society: www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk
- South East Wales RIGS : <http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>

