

**Geologists'
Association - South
Wales Group**



**Cymdeithas y
Daearegwyr - Grŵp
De Cymru**

Newsletter March 2021

Sixty second session

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Webmaster	Rhian Kendall webmaster@swga.org.uk	Other members of the committee: Stephen Howe, Cindy Howells, Geraint Owen, Elen Statham, Kevin Privett.	

After many years, Janet has passed the task of compiling our newsletter back to me so I'd like to start this little introduction with a big thank you to her for all her efforts, keeping us well informed with news and plans in recent years.

Unsurprisingly, this newsletter is still marred by the uncertainties as COVID continues to impact our lives. On the positive side, our Zoom lectures though the winter season have been a great success attracting large audiences and speakers from much further afield. Stephen has pulled together a hopeful programme of events for the summer so let's keep our fingers crossed that at least some of it can go ahead as the threat of the virus recedes.

I hope this newsletter finds you as well as you can be and I sincerely hope to see you all as soon as are allowed! Rhian



AGM, 20th March 2021

Once again we held our AGM successfully via Zoom (on time this year). The meeting ran well, under our new President Chris Lee with 40 members in attendance. There were a couple of changes to the committee. Nigel McGaw has stepped down due to personal circumstances. Many thanks go to Nigel for his many years of support and assistance in running the Group. We have a new member joining us, Kevin Privett. (To help you put a face to the name - Kevin gave a fascinating talk at Holiday Geology earlier this year). And, of course, Stephen, our long

time serving Programme Secretary has finally been released from his duties although he remains on the committee so we can pick his brains as required! This does leave a problem for us all (yes, that does include YOU!) as there is no replacement for Steve as yet. He has arranged the summer programme for this year, Covid-19 permitting, but beyond that we are looking for any help that can be offered. Even if you do not feel you can take on the role permanently, please get in touch if you are able to suggest speakers, interesting locations, etc.

Other than that all reports were accepted; Geraint Owen and Nick Pollock were re-elected as ordinary committee members and myself, Rhian and Caroline were re-elected as Officers (all contact details on the front page).

Janet (Group Secretary)



Summer Programme 2021

Due to the on-going Covid pandemic lockdown restrictions we are unsure as to when we will be allowed to recommence field excursions. We hope that we may be able to hold our first meeting in May but this is not guaranteed at this stage. As a result you will see that the programme below has many trips with no confirmed date or any meeting details. Once we get confirmation of the easing of the lockdown rules, and what they mean in practice, we will fix the dates and meeting details and distribute the programme by email. You will also notice that there is currently no excursion planned for July. This is because in case we cannot start in May the Barry Island trip planned for that month will move to the July slot. If we can commence in May then another trip will be arranged for July. I am sorry for all of the uncertainty but at the moment it is very hard to be sure of anything! The planned trips are as follows:

May: *Barry Island.* Leader – Chris Lee

June: *The Cribarth* Leader – Alan Bowring

July: tbc

August, Saturday 14th: *Penarth Family Day* Leaders: Cindy Howells and John Nudds

September: *Brown's Folly, Bathford and Tucking Mill – in the steps of William Smith.* Leader: Maurice Tucker

October, Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th: *West Gower.* Leader: Gareth George

Once we are allowed to commence excursions, we are also unsure as to whether numbers will have to be restricted, as we had to do in the autumn. If they do then we will run a booking system as before on a first-come basis with a reserve list in case anybody booked on to a trip has to drop out.

Events

Apart from our own Family Day at Penarth in August, it is very doubtful whether the group will be attending any other public-facing events during the summer. If any were to go ahead then we will let you know.

Stephen Howe



Geological Events at a computer near you!

Many geological organisations have moved their events on line which means that there are raft of lectures and workshops to get involved with.

- The geologists Association have their geology you're your sofa section on their website which is packed full of information about free lectures to attend or download. There are even online workshops to get involved with:
<https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/sofageology/>
- **Earth Heritage Magazine** This is now only available as an electronic copy. Here is the link:
http://www.earthheritage.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/EH-53_final.pdf
- If you are a regular visitor to our website: www.swga.org.uk you may have noticed that we have been putting recordings of our own lectures on line, just for a few months after they are recorded. If you need help getting up and running with Zoom, we've also put a guide on our website or you are welcome to email me and I'll try and help.
- You might also be interested to learn that we now have a YouTube channel and we also maintain Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179899022064977>) and Twitter accounts (@swgeologists). With Facebook and Twitter, anyone can join in and the more that do, the better it is!



We need your help! Membership Secretary

Caroline, our Membership Secretary, would like to step down next year so we will be looking for someone to step forward to replace her. If this is something you think you could do, please get in touch to find out more about the role. Caroline's email address is on the front page.



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
- 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/>



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