

## SWGA programme News

### Lecture programme.

Christmas marks the halfway point in our indoor lecture programme and it is pleasing to report that the numbers viewing our on-line talks have been very good and we have been joined by members from a number of other societies and organisations. We had hoped that by the New Year we would be able to hold in-person meetings once again but, with the appearance of the Omicron variant and the gradual tightening of Covid restrictions, this is looking increasingly unlikely. As a result of the current situation the Committee has reluctantly decided that the meetings for January and February **will be held via Zoom** and we will wait a little a little bit longer before making a decision about whether we can hold the final indoor meeting of the session, the AGM and Presidential Address, 'live', in March. If you do not normally view our lectures using Zoom and wish to do so from another address please contact the Meetings Coordinator on [programme@swga.org.uk](mailto:programme@swga.org.uk) and he will send you the link.

The remaining indoor programme is:

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January: *Holiday Geology*** [Zoom]

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: *Geological influences on the development of the city of Bath and its environs***. Kevin Privett (University of Portsmouth) [Zoom]

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February: *The Red Rocks of Pembrokeshire***. Brian Williams (University of Aberdeen) [Zoom]

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March: *AGM & Presidential Address: Bivalve Mounds and Reefs of the Middle Lias (Domerian) of the Central High Atlas Morocco***. Chris Lee [Cardiff]

### Holiday Geology

Currently I have received four offers of talks for this session's meeting covering the following subjects: an alternative geological landscape for south Wales, the trilobites of Gilwern Hill, the coastal geology of Ceredigion and Patagonia. My thanks to these four volunteers for coming forward so quickly. Now the plea for more of you to volunteer! We usually have from 8-10 short talks but can take more if there are enough offers. All you have to do is prepare your talk as a Powerpoint presentation, just as if you were giving your talk in a lecture theatre. Help will be on hand on the day to get you set up on Zoom and talk you through the process (basically you join the meeting and then share your screen when it is your time to speak). When I have the final list of speakers I will send out the programme with the running order prior to the meeting.

### Field meetings 2022

Planning for next year's summer field meeting programme has begun. To date we have provisional offers from:

**May:** *Tenby-Amroth, Pembrokeshire* (Sid Howells)

**June:** *Caswell Bay and Mumbles, Gower* (Gareth George)

**August:** *Family Geology Day, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan*.

**September:** *North Somerset Coast* (Lesley Cherns)

I am also in discussions with the Teme Valley Geological Society about arranging a joint trip to the Woolhope Dome. I am still looking for venues for April, July and October so if anybody has any suggestions or wishes to volunteer to lead a trip please let me know.

## **Book review**

For those of you still looking for a good value Christmas present the following may be of interest

**George, Gareth T.** 2021. *The Geology of South Wales: A Field Guide* (3rd Edition). Geoserv Publishing. 315pp. £19.75 +p&p. (P&P free to SWGA members)

First published in 2008, with a second edition in 2015, this is the third and final edition of this colourful and extremely informative field guide to the geology of south Wales, south of the Brecon Beacons. This latest edition has been fully updated, both in the introductory chapters and in the field itineraries and there are additional diagrams, reconstructions and photographs, most of which are in colour. It is also 40 pages longer than the second edition and the extra space, as well as accommodating extra information, has allowed the enlargement of some of the detailed logs and diagrams, so making them easier to read.

The format follows the earlier editions. The Introduction has been extensively revised and contains a detailed review of the Stonehenge bluestones, including the results from Mike Parker Pearson's recent excavations, and the arguments as to how they were transported to Wiltshire. The following three chapters cover the Principles of Stratigraphy, Fossils and Biostratigraphy, and the field analysis of sediments, sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks and structure. All of these have been expanded from earlier editions and contain a wealth of explanatory diagrams, reconstructions and images.

The final five chapters cover the field itineraries. This edition contains 45, many of them to classic sites that will be well known to the geological fraternity. These are grouped into chapters by region; Vale of Glamorgan, Gower Peninsula, North Crop of the South Wales Coalfield, South Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen Bay and North Pembrokeshire and Cardigan Bay. Each chapter begins with a geological history of the region followed by the detailed excursions. Once again these have been updated and contain more detail, imagery and coloured diagrams than earlier editions. Two itineraries from the earlier editions, Laugharne and Nolton Haven, have been removed due to the current state of the localities but have been replaced by an expanded Llansteffan excursion and two new itineraries; Freshwater East in Pembrokeshire and the Vale of Glamorgan coast from Porthcawl to Sker Point.

Despite the extra pages there is no space for the usual Bibliography or Index, which is a shame, but both are available as pdf documents from the Geoserve web site. For those who have not seen earlier editions this is a well written, easy to follow field guide that is extremely informative with easy to follow itineraries. For those who have earlier editions the questions might be why buy this one? Well, this edition contains a wealth of updated information, both in the introductory chapters and the itineraries, plus two new excursions. Also, the extended use of colour in the various illustrations makes many of the diagrams much clearer than earlier editions. This is by far the best geological field guide to south Wales on the market at the moment so well worth the purchase.

# The Geology of South Wales

A Field Guide (Third Edition)



Gareth T. George