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I am extremely honoured to have been elected as President of the SWGA for the next 2 years. Your committee is working hard to deliver an interesting and varied programme over the summer and into the winter lecture series, but we are severely hampered by our ongoing lack of a Programme Secretary. As you know, Nick Pollock has valiantly taken on the role of Meetings Coordinator, but we desperately need a Programme Secretary to work alongside Nick. Is there anyone out there who would like to take on this role? The job really entails making the initial contact with a potential speaker (or field trip leader) and confirming the lecture title (or field area), date, venue, travel arrangements etc. The committee are happy to come up with names and contact details of possible speakers and field leaders if this would help. Please have a think about this - we could possibly split the lecture programme from the field programme if this would make the job easier - but your Group desperately needs someone to fill this vacant committee position. Thank you!

*Have a great summer of geology! **John Nudds***



SWGA Summer Programme 2022

To date we have had five very successful field meetings and the weather has been very kind to us. The trips for the remainder of the programme are as follows:

Saturday 13th August

Penarth Family Day: 11.00am – 3.00pm

Leaders: Cindy Howells and John Nudds

We will have our gazebo and materials on the beach, just south of the RNLI slipway, and will be setting up from about **10.15am**. Anybody interested in helping out, if only for a short time, please contact Cindy (Cindy.Howells@museumwales.ac.uk).

Saturday 10th September. (Please note the change in date from the original programme)

Blue Anchor Bay – Doniford – Kilve. Somerset

Leader: Lesley Cherns

Meet at 10.30am at the east end of Blue Anchor Bay where there is plenty of free parking opposite the sea wall.

Full meeting details to follow closer to the event.

Sunday 2nd October

The Forest of Dean

Leader: Tom Cotterell

Full meeting details to follow closer to the event.

Car Sharing:

With fuel prices going through the roof, and the impact of members having to travel sometimes long distances for field meetings on the environment, it would be beneficial on a number of fronts if we could look at the possibilities of car sharing for future trips. This is being tried very successfully for the Woolhope meeting, partly because there are serious parking restrictions at the sites being visited on this trip, so we need to reduce the number of cars anyway. However, perhaps this is something that members will be willing to consider in the future. What are your thoughts?



Winter Programme 2022-23

As Covid rates had been diminishing we were hopeful that we would be able to recommence live meetings from this October. However, we are still not sure what the situation is with regard to the accommodation that we used to have at Cardiff and Swansea Universities. We have heard that there is a possibility that if we are allowed back in then we might have to start paying for the use of our usual lecture theatres and some of the possible costs being mentioned are far higher than we could sustain over any length of time. Accordingly, we may have to look for alternative accommodation. However, we are hopeful that we can come to an agreement with both universities that will allow us to be able to continue to use their facilities, at least for the next session.

We are also aware that many of our older members in particular have found it preferable to watch lectures by Zoom rather than having to travel into Cardiff or Swansea, especially in the winter months, and would like to see this option continue. The Committee has looked closely at all of the options and has decided that we will try and hold some meetings live, have a couple as Zoom only and make the live meetings hybrid if possible by offering the Zoom option for these as well - if we can sort the technology out!

So, what follows is very much a draft winter programme in the sense that where lectures are indicated as being at a venue these will be live but may have to revert to being by Zoom if our accommodation situation can't be resolved in time.

This year we have an additional lecture to celebrate *International Geodiversity Day*. This UNESCO supported event to celebrate our amazing geodiversity will occur on 6th October each year henceforth.

Thursday 6th October: (Zoom) International Geodiversity Day

Duncan Hawley - *W.D.Conybeare and Wales*:

Saturday 29th October: (Cardiff)

Phil Hughes – *Quaternary glaciations in the Mediterranean mountains - from Morocco to Montenegro*

Saturday 19th November: (Swansea)

Ewan Thomas - *The work of an Engineering Geologist in south Wales*

Saturday 17th December (Zoom)

TBC.

Saturday 7th January 2023: (Cardiff)

Holiday Geology

Saturday 21st January: (Swansea)

Peter Kokelaar - *Landscape evolution in southwest Wales: revelations of a dynamic Earth*

Saturday 18th February: (Zoom)

TBC

Saturday 18th March: (Cardiff)

AGM

Peter Sheldon - *Exceptional fossils - the surprising, the significant and the strange*



Rockwatch

We hosted the annual *Rockwatch* south Wales excursion over the weekend of 16th/17th July, for the first time in three years, thanks to Covid. We had planned to spend the Saturday at Penarth hunting for fossils and minerals on the beach and visiting some of the fossiliferous sites around Usk with Elen Statham on the Sunday. However, due to the late notification of the reinstatement of the Penarth downhill go-kart derby, we had to swap the programme around at short notice but in the end all went well. Due to the extreme weather warning a number of families pulled out so we were a smaller group than usual but that didn't detract from it being a very successful event and lots of good fossils were found. My thanks to Elen for arranging access to the Usk sites and leading the group on that day, Nick for helping out both days and Rhian for giving up her busy schedule to help out at Penarth.

For those of you who might be unaware, *Rockwatch* is the junior branch of the GA and contains many geologists of the future. The youngsters come with their parents and, having sharper eyes and being closer to the ground than us oldies, tend to come up with all sorts of fantastic finds. Their enthusiasm is heart warming and many travel long distances to take part, this time including London, Bedfordshire, Leicester and Berkshire.



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 from 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 (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvqI5oDUjXXsjVEx6UAKSFQ?app=desktop> or search for South Wales Geologists Association Youtube) 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!



Join the committee!

Stephen Howe has been our programme secretary for many years (18) and now wants to stand down (after quite a few years of only saying just one more year...) also, 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 joining the committee is something you think you could do, please get in touch (webmaster@swga.org.uk) to find out more about the roles. Your help would be very much appreciated.



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:** Andy Mitchell www.ougs.org/severnside
- **West Wales Geology Society:** www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk
- **South East Wales RIGS :** <http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>



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Gift Aid reclamations, general administration, and matters relating to the carrying out of the Group's activities (may also include non-members and historical records). We will not share / sell your information with any other organisation and will destroy your records when you leave.