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Welcome to the Easter Newsletter. In this edition you will find the details of the summer field meeting programme, updates from the National Museum and SEWRIGS, an article about the Minehead fossil forest from our President and the start of what I hope will become a regular feature, Holiday Geo-snaps, plus a range of other items. My thanks once again to all those who have provided items for the Newsletter without which it would be a bit blank. I would encourage you all to consider writing something for future editions.

The next Newsletter will hopefully be out by July and I am happy to receive items at any time up to 30<sup>th</sup> June for inclusion in that edition. If you have any comments on the Newsletter, or any ideas for future topics, please let me know. In the meantime, I hope that you find something of interest and look forward to seeing some of you during our field meeting season.



As it is Easter it seemed a shame to miss the opportunity to use an egg image on the front page of this edition. However, being a geological society chocolate didn't seem relevant so instead here is a picture of some theropod eggs from central China, courtesy of Cindy Howells!

*Stephen Howe*

## News from the AGM

The AGM took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March in Swansea with 41 members attending either in person or on-line. At the meeting the following members were elected/re-elected.

**Officers** (2-year term): Membership Secretary (2025-2027) Cindy Howells; Editor (2025-2027) Rhian Kendall; Secretary (2025-2027) Elen Statham. Unfortunately, for the fourth year running there were no nominations for the post of Programme Secretary (2025 -2027).

**Ordinary Member** (3-year term): Lesley Cherns (2025-2028).

Since the AGM Rebecca Christian has had to step down due to other commitments so we are now looking for a new Ordinary Committee Member as well as a Programme Secretary. If anyone is interested in either position, please let Elen know.

At the meeting our Editor, Rhian Kendall, reported that over the past year our walks leaflets had continued to be updated and uploaded to our website. Next year she plans to resurrect a project, originally instigated by Mike Bassett, to create a new geological walks book for south Wales. The plan is that authors will work on their walks during the summer with compilation and layup happening through next winter. Another proposed project is to produce a new edition of the very successful *The Land of the Beacons Way* by Dilys Harlow. As this book will go out of print in the next year or so it seems like a good time to refresh and update the volume.

Elen Statham reminded members that their local planning departments are currently in the process of writing their new Local Development Plans, and that the next few months are the best time to drop them an email, or go / zoom to one of their meetings so that you can flag up the importance of protecting regionally important geodiversity sites within their area. Such sites can be found on Datamap Wales under RIGS. Show them that we care!

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As you will see from the AGM report, yet again nobody has come forward to volunteer to take on the roles of Programme Secretary and Publicity Officer. Having no Programme Secretary makes it difficult for your hard-working committee to produce the annual programme of meetings so, we would urge (plead might be a better word) you to really think whether you could help out by taking on either role even if only for a short period. You will receive a lot of assistance from the Committee and all you need is a computer and email access!



## Summer Programme 2025

**Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Ogmore-by-Sea:** Leaders: *Cindy Howells & John Nudds*

Meet at 10am, (Low water @ 1.30 pm) in the large car-park (Brig-Y-Don) at the southern end of the village (SS 869 745) or w3w *poems.forgotten.filled*. The Pay-by-Phone App 'should' work here (if you have a phone signal), otherwise it should take card payments. There are no toilets at this car park – the nearest ones are in the main Rivermouth car park – which you can access quickly for free.

We are going to ease you into the summer field-season gently by offering another half-day excursion to Ogmore. We held a very successful half-day outing to Ogmore in June last year which concentrated

on the first part of the section from the river-mouth southwards – mainly Carboniferous rocks with the addition of the Triassic conglomerates. This trip will be a continuation of the story from last year.

On this trip we will start at the southern end of Ogmore, giving an overview of the Carboniferous Limestone and its relationship with the Triassic, before heading 'upwards' to the Jurassic which sits unconformably above. At this point in time, in the very earliest Jurassic, south Wales was suffering sea-level rise and climate change (sounds familiar!), and the previous Triassic deserts had been replaced by coastal plains, lagoons, and off-shore islands.

We'll try to show the difference between the Carboniferous and Jurassic limestones, and the fossils within them, particularly the change from Rugose and Tabulate to Scleractinian corals. We'll show you the ancient coastline, wave-cut platforms, encrusting organisms and even a Jurassic sea-stack.

We intend staying out for around 2-3 hours maximum, and apart from the grassy slope down to the cliff top and back up again, it should be a fairly level walk with no rock-scrambling. If the weather is kind enough, we could possibly adjourn afterwards to the lovely coffee-shop at the top of the cliff just down the road (West Farm Barn), and have lunch there.

Full details will be sent out nearer the time, but put it in your diaries now!

*Cindy Howells*

## **Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

***Cefn Onn area, Cardiff:*** Leader *Stephen Howe*

Meet at 10.00am in the car park at Cefn Onn Country Park, Cherry Orchard Road, Lisvane, Cardiff (ST 179 837/CF14 0EP). There are toilets at the car park. Bring a packed lunch.

This is a joint meeting with the SEWRIGS group. The area around Cefn Onn has a number of RIGS sites covering the Old Red Sandstone and Lower Carboniferous. Since their original designation some have almost disappeared whilst other, potential replacement sites, have been found. The meeting will aim to explain the importance of RIGS, how sites are assessed and designated and will involve a lot of discussion and hands-on assessment.

The meeting will cover the same area as the field trip held in April 2023 and will involve a circular walk of 6 kms (4-4.5miles). The walk is on quiet back roads, gravel tracks and various footpaths, some of which can be muddy and slippery when wet. The outward route includes a gentle climb, mainly through woodland, followed by a steep section up a tarmac road to the top of the outer ridge. We will take this at a gentle pace and have numerous stops. Once at the top the walk is over an undulating area, often in the open with extensive views at times. There are a few short ascents and descents before the main descent back to the car park mostly through woodland. There are no facilities on the walk itself.

## **Saturday June 21st**

***Dinefwr Park, Carmarthenshire:*** Leader: *Lesley Cherns & Chris Byrne*

Dinefwr Park is a National Trust property with extensive parkland to the west of Llandeilo, owned by the Rhys family for hundreds of years. Geologically it is important for its outcrops of middle Ordovician Llandeilo Flags rocks, in the historical type area for the Llandeilo Series that was named and described by Murchison (1839). Even earlier, a trilobite from Dinefwr was illustrated by Edward Llwyd in the Catalogue of British Fossils published in 1699.

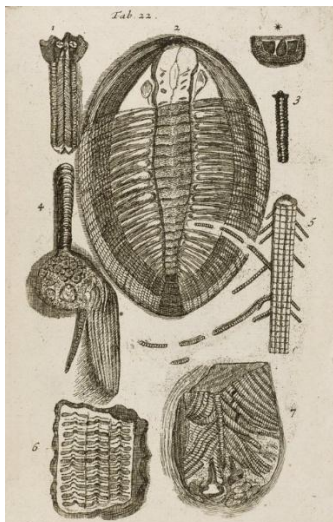


Illustration from Llwyd (1699). The trilobite *Ogygiocarella debuchii* is common in the Lower Llandeilo Flags

The Llandeilo is now subsumed into the Llanvirn Series. The Park has 6 GCR sites that together provide accessible outcrops in old quarries and bank sections that span the succession. It complements the nearby Ffairfach railway cutting and Afon Cennen GCR for this period of Ordovician time. Yellowish grey limestones, siltstones and mudstones are locally fossiliferous with brachiopods and trilobites.

We will walk around the Park and examine outcrops in rocks through an Ordovician succession that spans from the Llanvirn to Caradoc, also visiting the 12<sup>th</sup> century Dinefwr Castle (CADW). Many of the buildings and walls in the Park, as well as the castle, use rocks quarried from the site. By contrast Newton House is faced with different building stones, many quarried from other properties in Wales and England owned by the family.

### **Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Naunton (Huntsman's) Quarry, Gloucestershire** Leader: Mike Milward

This is a joint meeting with the Cheltenham Mineral and Geology Society. Meet at 10.00am at Naunton Quarry (SP 124 254). This is a working quarry so PPE is required and should be orange hi-vis top and trousers, hard hat and protective footwear (preferably composite rather than steel).

The quarry, which traded for decades as Huntsman's Quarry, is working a succession of formations of the Middle Jurassic Great Oolite Group, as well as the underlying Clypeus Grit of the Inferior Oolite, containing abundant good quality specimens of the echinoid *Clypeus ploti*. Above the Lower Fuller's Earth, the formations include the coral-rich Sharp's Hill Formation and the Stonesfield Slate beds notable for past discoveries of vertebrate remains. Our guides will describe all of this, and explain the commercial dimension of the operation.

The address is Naunton Quarry, Buckle St, Naunton, Gloucestershire, GL54 3BA, but the postcode is not a reliable way to find the quarry as it will take you into nearby Naunton village. It is best to use the grid ref, which is SP124 254. Coming east from Cheltenham/Gloucester, leave the A40 at Andoversford and onto the A436 (signposted Bourton on the Water). After approximately 4 miles turn left onto the B4068 (signposted Lower Swell and Stow-on-the-Wold). After approximately 4.5 miles, and after passing several signposts to Naunton, turn left at a crossroads with a brown sign to "Cotswold Farm Park 2.5 miles" and underneath it a white sign to "The Quarry" 1.5 miles. Ignore any earlier signs to Cotswold Farm Park. This is Buckle Street and you will find the quarry entrance on the right after 1.5 miles. The reception building is on the left as you drive in, park in the marked spaces.

Advance booking is essential for this trip and details of where and how to book will be sent out closer to the date.

## Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Penarth Family Day: 11.00am – 2.00pm:** Leaders: *John Nudds & Cindy Howells*

Meet at our gazebo, which will be on the beach just south of the RNLI slipway. We 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 September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Weston-super-Mare:** Leaders: *Susan Marriott and David Case*

Details to be confirmed later.

## October

**Lavernock, Penarth. TBC**

**Please note** that members should read the Group's Field Work Safety Policy before attending excursions to make themselves aware of the general risks likely to be encountered on excursions as well as the site-specific Risk Assessment that is sent out prior to each excursion.



## Other Field Trips

**Portishead Coast, Central & East sections: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Bristol Naturalists' Society are running this trip. It is led by Mark Howson who has taken us on two fascinating trips along this stretch of coast in the last few years. So, if you missed either or both of our excursions here is a chance to catch up on what you missed. The morning will be spent examining the Devonian and the afternoon the Lower and Late Carboniferous of the area. If any one is interested in attending then please contact Mark at [markphowson@btinternet.com](mailto:markphowson@btinternet.com) who will provide you with full details.

**Pinhay Bay, Dorset: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Bath Geological Society are arranging a trip to this classic site on the Dorset coast, just west of Lyme Regis. It will be led by Maurice Tucker and Eric Squires and will examine the exceptional White Lias (Langport Member of the Rhaetian Lillstock Formation) section that is exposed in the cliffs about 2kms west of Lyme Regis. If you are interested in attending then please Bob Mustow on [Field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:Field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk)



## Committee Member Profile: Sara Davies, Student Ambassador.



Hello everyone!

I'm Sara Davies, current President of the Geoscience Society at Swansea University, and I'm delighted to introduce myself as the student ambassador for the South Wales Geologists Association. I am a mature student who founded the Geoscience Society in September 2024 when I started my second year of studying an Environmental Geoscience degree. Since then, alongside my

brilliant committee — Ioan (Vice President), Carys (Treasurer), and Lily (Secretary) — we've achieved some fantastic milestones!

We're incredibly proud to have secured sponsorship from Earth Science Partnership and achieved a grant from the South Wales Geologists Association, which has and will help us grow our community and outreach. We've established a community litter hub through Keep Wales Tidy in Swansea, meeting once a month to make a positive environmental impact.

One of our biggest projects is launching in April — our 'Geotagabag' litter campaign! Our goal is to collect 1,000 bags of litter and raise £1,000 in support of South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue and the South Wales Caving Club. Beyond this, we've supported The Tree Society in planting trees for local organisations and launched a study group to help support our peers. The university has also recognised us as a sustainability-focused society—something we're really proud of!



To raise awareness of geoscience as a subject, we've attended open days and freshers' events, and we've even just launched our society merchandise, including t-shirts and mugs. We'd love for you to follow along on our journey! Find us on Instagram: @geoscienceswanuni & @geotagabag for our litter campaign. Or reach out via email - [geoscience@societies-swansea.ac.uk](mailto:geoscience@societies-swansea.ac.uk)

Thank you for your support — exciting things are still to come!

Best wishes, Sara Davies

*President, Geoscience Society/Student Ambassador — South Wales Geologists Association*



## The Oldest Fossil Forest in the world?

Having already described the Earth's oldest fossil forest twice before with colleagues (Gilboa, New York in 2012; Cairo, New York in 2020), it was only another couple of years before another record-breaking forest presented itself. Fossil forests are important because they don't just tell us about organisms, but they inform us about the environment and ecology of ancient terrestrial ecosystems.

The oldest known forests of fossil lycopods are from the Middle/Upper Devonian boundary in Svalbard, about 380 million years ago. The Cairo and Gilboa fossil forests are only a very few millions of years older, about 385 Ma, with Cairo stratigraphically the oldest by a whisker. These two forests are interesting as they both have plants with woody trunks in them. At Cairo we see the massive rooting systems of the conifer-like upright trunk of the leafy tree *Archaeopteris* likely growing about 25 meters tall. This forest dates from about the time that *Archaeopteris* appears in the fossil record as the first

recognisably 'modern' tree, and it was already a whopper. At Gilboa, the woody tree, although closely related to *Archaeopteris*, was a surprise as the 'trunk' appeared to have been creeping along the ground horizontally, and the upright parts were relatively low primitive-looking branching systems, with unwebbed twigs taking the functional role of leaves in *Archaeopteris*.



Fig 1



Fig 2

Fig 1. *Calamophyton* trunks under Culver Cliff. 1 m scale. ©C Berry.

Fig 2. Reconstruction of a *Calamophyton* forest by Peter Geisen © P Geisen

At both Cairo and Gilboa the other dominant plants were cladoxyloids. This group of plants did not have a trunk made of a cylinder of wood – rather the wood was dispersed into a large number of small strands, sufficiently connected together to produce an upright stem, probably 12 m high or more. Originating at the crown, and abscising from the sides of the trunk like a palm or tree fern, were branches looking a bit like an arm and a hand with very long fingers, covered in small twig-like appendages. This anatomically and morphologically distinct type of plant became extinct before the end of the Devonian. Yet fossils of this tree type are known back to about 390 million years ago, and are sometimes called 'the first tree'. Peter Giesen collected multiple entire juvenile trees of this age, 2m high, attributed to the genus *Calamophyton*, in huge sandstone blocks, from the Lindlar quarry in Germany. These trees were likely swept into the sea by a tsunami. Which begs the question where were they growing, in what type of forest, and in what environmental conditions?

In July 2021, Neil Davies and William McMahon, from Cambridge University, were investigating the Hangman Sandstone in the North Devon basin, of the same age as Lindlar, when they came across some unusual large rootlike plant fossils under the cliffs at Culver, near Minehead, just across the Bristol Channel from Cardiff. When I saw the photos I was immediately reminded of the trunks of Peter's *Calamophyton*, and went to investigate. Sure enough, that's what they turned out to be. But given that every *Calamophyton* tree would have shed about 800 branches during its lifetime, surely someone would have found some of the distinctive branches? A literature trawl produced an image of one such branch in the Minehead BGS Memoir, collected by 'Mr and Mrs Rodber of Minehead', and studied by Dianne Edwards of Cardiff University. At this point my visual memory kicked in once again, and I popped

into Dianne’s office, next door to my own, and retrieved the specimen from her windowsill where it was being used as a paperweight. There was no doubt – *Calamophyton* had been living in west Somerset 390 million years ago.



Fig 3



Fig 4

Fig 3. Chris at the fossil forest examining one of the tree base impressions and lying down trunk. Porlock Weir. © Amy Wyatt.

Fig 4. Window sill find - part of a *Calamophyton* branch. BGS specimen number UKBGS.GSM106361. ©C Berry

But in what ecology and what environment. Here again Neil and Will’s fossil-finding skills were to pay off. They found some small depressions with suspicious linear structures radiating from them on a sloping ripple-covered surface near Porlock Weir. Although this is a tricky surface to study, as it tests the adhesion qualities of one’s footwear, it seemed reasonable for us to interpret this as a fallen stand of *Calamophyton* trees, with their bases in life position. Neil and Will were able to interpret the deposit as the margin of one of many small distributive channels of a shallow alluvial fan type setting. Analysis of the sediments within the basin showed that the establishment of a forested landscape, albeit with quite small trees, led to the deposit overall having many of the sedimentological characteristics of subsequent landscapes which incorporate large rooted plants, and different in many respects to the sedimentary deposits which had come before.

What next? We plan to make use of drones to make 3-d models of the forest, and to use the techniques that Lesley Cherns and I have been applying to dinosaur footprints to make a more accurate record of the forest than has yet been possible with conventional photography.

Chris Berry



## Merthyr Science Festival

This year’s Merthyr Science Festival will take place on **Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>**. The main GA will be attending this event once again and David Ward, the outreach officer for the GA, has asked the Group if they could provide some help in manning his stall during the day. The Group has also decided that we should also attend this event and hopefully we can be alongside each other to jointly man both stands. If you are interested in helping out at this event, even if for only a short period, please let Elen, our Secretary know ([secretary@swga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@swga.org.uk)). Expenses can be claimed for travel to and from Merthyr.





## SEWRIGS



Now that Spring has arrived this is the time for RIGS to spring into action. We held our first outdoor meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> returning to Cilwrgi Quarry on the site of the Prescoed Prison farm, near Llandegfedd Reservoir. The lovely dry conditions helped us give the site a good spring clean removing brambles, moss and other invading vegetation to enhance the exposure of the Usk Limestone (Silurian, Wenlock in age) which forms part of the Usk inlier. This site is a really good example of a very fossiliferous bioherm, which is quite rare in south Wales. Further excavations on the

day revealed that there could be as many as 5 separate bioherms. (Photo © Dave Wellings)

This was followed a week later, on March 20<sup>th</sup>, under similar dry and warm conditions, with a return visit to Quarella Quarry, Wildmill, Bridgend for another spring clean. This involved the removal of vegetation, particularly mosses and liverworts and to enhance sections of the distinct unconformity between the Quarella Sandstone and the overlying, mainly green and yellow mudstone and siltstones of the Cotham Beds. Further sections of this unconformity were exposed on the day confirming that there are channel structures on the undulating unconformity. On both sites the importance of follow-up visits is clear as extended areas of excavation can lead to a better understanding and improved interpretation of the sites' geology.



On March 29<sup>th</sup> we held our first indoor meeting of the year at the West Cross Community Centre in Swansea when we discussed, amongst many other matters, progress and future action on our existing sites and the potential of new sites, including the nearby Clyne Valley Country Park. This was followed by an afternoon walk visiting the site of the old Killay Brickworks where the excellent exposures of the Coal Measures have sadly become extensively overgrown removal of which will pose a challenge for our limited manpower resources (Photo montage © Lynda Garfield).

Another project we hope to undertake soon is at Candleston, Merthyr Mawr, where we have obtained permission from the landowner of Merthyr Mawr Estate to undertake clearance work on the Candleston RIGS site. There are a series of small quarries at this site, with the most westerly exposing the Lower Dinantian Brofiscin Oolite (part of the Black Rock Limestone Group). Prospective work will involve the

usual clearance of vegetation but also enhancing the important areas of mineralisation and, in the main quarry, the significant unconformity with the overlying Jurassic marginal facies.

SWGA members who attended *Holiday Geology* will recall Lynda Garfield's excellent presentation, put together with Dave Wellings, providing an insight into the work of RIGS and promoting geoconservation, emphasising the impact it has had in restoring lost sites to the benefit of the wider geological community. This talk attracted much interest and hopefully attracted some new recruits to carry on the excellent work. More recruits will help ensure that we can achieve our ambitious project programme.

Nigel McGaw



## News from the Museum:

### A new Mammoth

Visitors to the National Museum Cardiff from late-March onwards will be greeted by a new exhibit in the Main Hall. We're getting another mammoth! You might say that we already have one, and you'd be correct. But this new one is here to add something a little bit more exciting in the vast entrance hall.

The new mammoth will actually be a replica of a replica – being a 3D print of the cast we already have. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get ours scanned as it's tucked into a tight corner, so the scan was taken from its twin in the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms. This mammoth is a cast taken from original bones found at Condover in Shropshire in 1986.



The Condover mammoth was discovered during excavations in a gravel-pit which cut into an Ice Age kettle-hole. This was a steep-sided pool left as huge blocks of ice melted when the climate warmed at the end of the Ice Age 14,000 years ago. The mammoth is a male, of around 28 years old. It seemed to have been in relatively good health apart from a healed break to one scapula. So, it's assumed that this injury may have left the mammoth with a weaker front leg, maybe a limp, and probably meant that after slipping into the pool it was unable to climb back out. It was the only adult mammoth found in the vicinity, although there were a few juveniles close by.

After the bones were spotted, the quarry agreed to pause work in that area long enough for a rescue operation carried out by Shropshire Museums Service. The bones were taken to Ludlow Museum where they could be

studied in detail, and they now permanently housed within the Ludlow Museum Resource Centre. The National Museum of Wales thought that this was such an important discovery from the Welsh Borderlands that we should feature it in our new *Evolution of Wales* exhibition, and so an agreement was reached whereby the Museum borrowed the bones, stored them for a number of years and organised them to be cast and mounted.

The museum already had a mammoth cast on display – the huge Oscar from Bavaria, found by 15-year-old Bernard von Bredow in 1975 and excavated over a number of years. Oscar had been initially borrowed from its home in Siegsdorf for our '*Mammoths and the Ice Age*' exhibition in 1989. This exhibition was the second in the museum's run of 'block-busters', following on from '*Dinosaurs from China*', and featured dioramas set within sculpted stone cave walls.



Oscar was exhibited alongside a cast of the mummified baby mammoth *Dima*, a model of a woolly rhino, plus a bison, and a real leg, skin and hair of a mammoth, borrowed from Paris. Also, a revolutionary new robotic display of an adult and baby mammoth being confronted by three Dire-wolves – an extinct wolf with powerful jaws which is thought to have preyed on large mammals. The mammoth moved its leg and head, and its trunk curled and uncurled, whilst the wolves moved their heads and howled – truly a totally new concept for this time! The robotics had been put together by Roby Braun (from New York), a model maker, designer and sculptor. As many of you will know, these robotic mammoths were re-installed in *Evolution of Wales* and over the years have gradually moved less and less as the old robotic technology has gradually broken and can no longer be replaced. Now, finally, we have admitted defeat so they are stationary and can no longer scare small infants!

In 1999, the museum dismantled Oscar and sold that skeleton to the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, who were looking for a mammoth cast for new displays. The new Condoover cast was then mounted in its place, on a raised plinth covered with sand and rock, where it still forms the impressive centre-piece of the Ice Age section.

This year, the museum is making a big effort to improve its visitor experience and wanted to try to get more iconic specimens into the Entrance Hall. As we have not been able to tell the story of the Condoover mammoth in any detail, it was decided to make this the central feature. It will allow us to tell the story of its life, death and discovery through a new interactive feature, along with AV technology to bring it back to life. It is also hoped that within a few months we can add real archaeological and

palaeontological specimens into cases nearby, thus telling the stories of mammoth interaction with humans and the other late ice age animals.

*Cindy Howells*

(SWGA Vice-President, and curator at National Museum of Wales)



## Holiday Geo-snaps

As a result of my usual request for contributions for the Newsletter, many of which seem to fall on deaf ears, Kevin Privett has come up with the idea of a new, regular feature, that he suggested perhaps could be called 'Holiday Geo-snaps'. The idea is to submit a photo or two of an interesting exposure that you have seen on your travels with a brief description. Kevin starts off this new feature with his contribution from **Calne Beach near Truro, Cornwall**.



*Figure 1*



*Figure 2*

*Figure 1* shows a cliff section at Calne Beach southeast of Truro. The grey rocks at the base are the Pendower Formation, slatey mudstone with interbedded sandstone, limestone and chert, of Devonian age (393.3-387.7 Ma). The upper surface in the picture is a palaeo-wave-cut platform on which rests a thin raised beach. The upper third of the cliff is composed of Head material, highly frost shattered and transported gelifluction deposits of Quaternary age.

*Figure 2* is a close up of the Pendower Fm and is an excellent example of cleavage and bedding. The original bedding is gently dipping to the right. The steeper dipping lines are spaced cleavage in the mudstone units. Note how the formation of the cleavage has shortened the deposit in a direction orthogonal to the plane of cleavage, as evidenced by minor folding in thin quartz-rich laminations in the lower part of the picture. £1 coin for scale.

*Kevin Privett*



## ODDS AND ENDS

The Group sometimes receives advertisements for various geological products, excursions and meetings which we are asked to distribute to our members. Each such request is discussed at

committee as to whether or not we feel that we should advertise them or not. We are keen to support geological and mineralogical societies and individual society members who offer geological services. Below you will find advertisements for a new, comprehensive book about the minerals of GB, produced by the Russell Society and two volcanic excursions run by a GA member. **Please note that we are offering these for information purposes only and they are not Committee recommendations.**

## Volcanic Experiences

GA Member Alan Clelow has been running escorted small group tours to geologically superb volcanic areas of the world for more than 25 years. Alan has contacted us and other GA Groups to flag up he has vacancies on a couple of upcoming trips (see below) in case any members might be looking for a geological holiday. There are vacancies on the following excursions.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2025: Sicily & the Aeolians;** This trip includes five nights on Lipari Island and two on Sicily at Giardini Naxos. There are visits to the island of Vulcano, with the opportunity to climb to the rim of its crater, to the higher slopes of Etna, and also the opportunity to see the eruptions of Stromboli after dark. This itinerary includes a free day on Sicily, with a range of optional excursions.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Iceland ~ Myvatn and the active North.** This trip is based for much of the time at Lake Myvatn, surrounded by landscape features created by historic and recent volcanic activity. It will include visits to Krafla and the magnificent and dramatic waterfall at Dettifoss. The highlight for many will be a trip by 4WD bus over lava-fields into the remote interior to the giant caldera at Askja.

If anybody is interested full details of all our tours can be found on Alan's website. <http://www.volcanicexperiences.co.uk/>

## The Minerals of Britain and Ireland 2009-2024

The Russell Society, founded in 1972 in memory of Sir Arthur Russell, arguably the greatest mineral collector that these islands have ever known, has been at the forefront of the production of this new, lavishly illustrated minerals 'bible' for the UK, which is an update to Andy Tindle's 2008 *Minerals of Britain and Ireland*. Collectors from the society have found at least 320 minerals new to the UK, and 12 of these have been named for members.

This new, 400-page book, also includes information on the 150 new mineral species that have been discovered since 2008 and it provides the most fully documented quasi-national indexing of geodiversity to date. Copies can be obtained from the Steely Minerals website (see advertisement) at a cost of £75.



## Reminder

- Most of our lectures are recorded and uploaded to our website ([www.swga.org.uk](http://www.swga.org.uk)) for a few months.
- We also have a YouTube channel as well as maintaining a Facebook presence (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179899022064977>). With Facebook, anyone can join in and the more that do, the better it is!
- **Earth Heritage Magazine:** This is now only available as an electronic copy, which can be found at: [http://www.earthheritage.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/EH-53\\_final.pdf](http://www.earthheritage.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/EH-53_final.pdf)



## Contacts for other local geological organisations

- **Welsh Stone Forum (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru):** Contact: [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/welshstoneforum](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/welshstoneforum)
- **Open University Geological Society (Severnside Branch):** Contact: Andy Mitchell ([ougs.org/severnside](http://ougs.org/severnside))
- **South East Wales RIGS Group:** <http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>
- **West Wales Geology Society:** [www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk](http://www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk)
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**Data Protection:** *The Group keeps records of names, contact details, membership type, and Gift Aid declarations. These are used only within the Group for maintaining the membership list, mailings, 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.*



**Whiteford Bay, Gower from Cwm Ivy Tor**