



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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April 2009

Fiftieth Session 2008-2009

With such a busy newsletter, there's not much space for the usual introductions. Suffice to say that Stephen Howe has organized us a great selection of meetings for our field meeting season. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Field Meetings 2009



Sunday 26th April
Rudry, near Caerphilly.
Leader: Tom Sharpe (NMW)

A full day excursion that will entail a circular walk of about 6 miles to examine the Upper Old Red Sandstone – Carboniferous sequence of the area and its effect on the topography. The route includes a few steep sections,

Meet at 10.30am at the public car park on Rudry Common (ST 183 865), which is located just below Mynydd Rudry, near Caerphilly. Lunch can be taken at the Maenllwyd public house for those who wish, although it will probably be busy, otherwise bring a packed lunch.



Saturday 30th May
North-west Carmarthenshire
Leader: John Davies (CCW)

Meet at 10.30am at the Focus car park in Carmarthen (SN 412 193). Bring a packed lunch. This full day excursion will follow the Ordovician-Silurian boundary across Carmarthenshire, towards Llangranog, looking specifically at the submarine channel deposits. The excursion will also examine the use of these various sandstones as building stones.

Saturday 20th June
Chedworth, Gloucestershire
Leader: David Owen (Gloucestershire Geology Trust)

Meet at 10.30am at Chedworth Roman Villa car park (SP 053 135), three miles north-west of Fossebridge off the A429 Cirencester to Northleach road. Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will visit the Chedworth Railway cutting, which exposes a condensed section through the Inferior Oolite, and then Foss Cross Quarry to examine the Great Oolite (White Limestone). Then a short drive to the Stony Furlong cutting and Chedworth Valley to look at further sections in the White Limestone, local building stones and how Quaternary erosion and deposition has affected the landscape. If time permits it may be possible to visit the Chedworth Roman Villa (entrance charge applies).



Saturday 25th July
Exploring the landforms and deglaciation of the Middle Usk Valley in the Abergavenny area
Leader: Adrian Humpage (BGS)

Meet at 10.00am outside the Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre in the main car park opposite the bus station (SO 302 140). Bring a packed lunch

This excursion will examine the glacial limits of the Usk glacier and some of the recessional features associated with a retreating ice margin. Evidence associated with the timing of the deglaciation of the area will be considered and some of the problems of tributary glaciers and how they decoupled from the main ice mass. The deposits and evidence of climatic amelioration and Holocene landscape change will also be examined.



Saturday 22nd August
Burrington Combe, Mendip
Leader: Andy Farrant (BGS)

Meet at 10.30am at the Burrington Combe Café car park, just below the 'Rock of Ages' (ST 476 587). Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will be by foot around Burrington Combe and the East and West Twin Valleys examining the Carboniferous Limestone succession, the overlying Triassic and plenty of caves and karstic features. An idea of what we will see can be found in the BGS publication The Walkers Guide to the Geology and Landscape of Western Mendip by Andy Farrant.



Saturday 19th September
St Davids, Pembrokeshire
Leader: Dyfed Elis Gruffydd

Meet at 11.00am at the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park car park near the Bishop's Palace in St Davids (SM 749 254). Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will begin with an examination of the building stones of the Cathedral and then proceed to Pont y Penyd Quarry, Porth Clais, and if time permits, St Non's Bay. The day will be spent looking at the rocks of the Pebidian Volcanic Complex, the Cambrian Caerfai and Solva Groups and the late Plesitocene.



Saturday 24th October
Cwm Gwrelech and Sdelar
Opencast, Neath Valley
Leader: Ben Evans (BIGC)

Meet at 10.30am at Cwm Gwrelech, near Pont Walby, Pontneddfechan (SN 891 065). Bring a packed lunch.

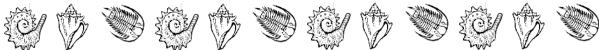
The morning will be spent examining the Coal Measures sequence in Cwm Gwrelech and the afternoon that in the Sdelar Opencast mine. The underfoot conditions may be slippery and muddy especially after heavy rain.

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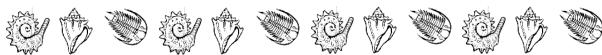
From time to time, for reasons beyond the control of the Group, meetings do unfortunately have to be cancelled. If such a situation has arisen then every attempt will be made to put this information on the web site.



Geoconservation Workdays

Following on from the successful geoconservation day at Wern Ddu that we participated in last October, Ben Evans will be arranging two more such meetings this coming November: Saturday 7th November at Cwm Gwrelych and Saturday 14th November at Wern Ddu. The objective of both days will be to undertake site clearance work that, depending upon your fitness and drive, can range from barrowing away scree to cleaning rock faces of vegetation - 'gardening'! All tools will be provided and although both meetings will be full day events, starting at 10.00am, it is up to you how long you participate. Full meeting details will appear in a later Newsletter but if any of you

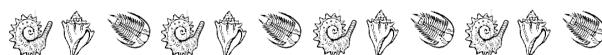
are interested in participating in these or any other such activities with the South Wales Coalfield Geo Heritage Project then contact the Project Manager, Ben Evans by email (ben.evans@museumwales.ac.uk).



Summer Events

As you will be aware the Group participated in a number of events last year at which we manned a display/sales stand and also undertook some geological activities. We have already been asked if we will attend the Out of the Woods Festival in Bute Park, Cardiff on Sunday 23rd August. As we have a field meeting on Saturday 22nd August the Parks department are prepared to obtain the rock for our fossil bash but before I commit us to going I would appreciate it if members could let me know whether any of you will be able to help out on the Sunday.

We have also been tentatively asked to attend the Penarth Festival of the Sea again, which last year was over the first weekend in July. As soon as we have confirmation of the date we will let you know but in the meantime, if there are any members who would be willing to help out at anytime over the weekend, could they let me know please.



Fforwm Cerrig Cymru / Welsh Stone Forum programme 2009

Saturday 18th April: AGM and Lecture 11.00am, St Mary's Priory Centre, Monk Street, Abergavenny

The AGM will be followed by a lecture by Dr Maddy Gray on Stone Sepulchral Sculpture. Afternoon study of the church monuments and Abergavenny.

Saturday 16th May: The Abbey Masonry workshop and the area around Cross Hands Leader: Tim Palmer and John Davies

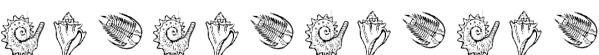
Meet at 11.00am at the Abbey Masonry works on the Cross Hands Industrial Estate, Cross Hands [SN 568 128]. Packed lunch essential.

Saturday 27th June: Llanddewi Brefi, Strata Florida and Llanbadarn Fawr Leaders: John Davies and Tim Palmer

Meet at 11.00am in the square in front of the church, Llanddewi Brefi [SN 663 553]

Saturday 12th September: Llangollen and Valle Crucis Leader: Jacqui Malpas and Raymond Roberts

Meet at 11.00am in the central car park, Llangollen [SJ 214 420]



South Wales RIGS Project Workshop Days

The South Wales RIGS project is now underway and we are looking for volunteers to help. Our literature searches have revealed a large number of potentially interesting sites across the region and we need help to see if they still exist. We have put together a short workshop to help us to get started. The workshop is intended as informal day to go through the forms and H&S in insurance paper work, taking no more than an hour or so depending on questions that arise. I also intend to offer people the opportunity to go through describing samples and sites and using a compass on the same day if they would like to although I realise that not everyone will want to do this. We can also talk about the areas that people are interested in working in arrange to get the site visit forms and maps printed out so you can visit some sites.

The workshop will be held in the BGS offices in Tongwynlais, near Cardiff with field work in the Taff Gorge if you'd like to do that, later the same day. In the first instance, we have arranged two dates for people to choose from these being **17th and 18th of April**. One week day and

one weekend day to choose from. I can arrange more dates for people if these aren't convenient.

If you think that you would like to attend, I'd be grateful if you could let me know which date you'd prefer and I'll send on directions and arrangements closer to the day. Similarly, if these dates aren't convenient, let me know and I'll arrange others.

We have sadly lost another member. Braham Jacobs aged 79 died on 10th February. He was a retired manager of M&S in Neath who had been a member for many years. A member of this group for many years he also attended Geraint Owens evening classes in the early 90's

National Museum of Wales Lecture

Special Evening Lecture: William Buckland - The Man Who Ate the Heart of a King, and discovered the Red Lady of Paviland
14 May 6.30pm

This talk is by Professor Jim Kennedy, director of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, on 14 May at National Museum Cardiff.

What's going on in South Wales Geology?

As you probably know, there are lots of geological events going on in South Wales, but the difficulty is finding out about them. To try and address this, we have set up a website on which you can find of events. If you know of any events that you think should be added, please send me an email. If you organise regular

meetings, we can set up passwords so that you can add your own events.

www.southwalesgeology.blogspot.com

Other Geological Organisations

There are a number of other organisations offering geological courses and trips. These include

- Cardiff University Centre for Lifelong Learning: www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn
- Bristol University Continuing Education are running a range of courses, dayschools and study tours. Further details from Barbara Perks, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol (0117-954-5438; earth-ce@bris.ac.uk; www.gly.bris.ac.uk/ce).
- Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education from 01792-295786 or www.swansea.ac.uk/dace.
- You can get details of Russell Society Wales and West Branch activities from Tom Cotterell (01594-845935, before 9 pm).
- U3A South Wales Geology Group from Nigel McGaw (01656-654439).
- Welsh Stone Forum (Ffowwm Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk)
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott. www.ougs.org/severnside

