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January 2010

Fifty-first Session 2009-2010



Indoor Meetings 2010



Saturday 9th January (Cardiff, National Museum of Wales)

Holiday Geology

The annual Holiday Geology meeting will take place in the Oriel Suite (the rooms behind the restaurant) at the National Museum of Wales on Saturday 9th January from 11.00am – 4.00pm. Access to the rooms is via the restaurant. The meeting is being hosted by the Museum's Geology Department and there will be a buffet lunch provided. No booking is required to attend the meeting unless you are volunteering to give a short presentation. We currently have had offers of seven presentations and am looking for about 8-10 in total so if there is anybody else willing to give talk could they please let Stephen Howe know before the day. There will be a lap-top and digital projector available as most people seem to be using this form of photographic equipment these days but we do have access to a 35mm slide projector in case anybody wishes to show slides. If anybody is intending using slides could you please let Stephen know before the day as well please.

If anybody has a poster display that they

wish to exhibit please let us know and we will try and arrange to get some display screens. There will also probably be a second-hand book, journal and map sales table.

Due to increasing costs, unlike previous years, we will be asking for a £2/head contribution towards the buffet payable at the door on the day.



**Saturday 23rd January (Cardiff)
50th Anniversary Lecture and Dinner**

Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth)
How Earth made Us

Anniversary year our January meeting falls on exactly the same day that the Group's first ever lecture took place in 1960 - Saturday 23rd January. To celebrate the occasion we are very fortunate to have got Prof Iain Stewart from the University of Plymouth and TV fame to come and talk to us about his new television series, *How Earth Made Us*.



Saturday 20th February (Swansea)
Mark Jones (University College London)

The New Zealand Tuatara, its fossil relatives and the Welsh Dragon



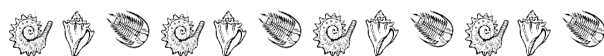
Saturday 13th March (Cardiff)
[10.30am start]

AGM and Presidential Address

Nigel McGaw

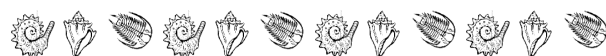
Geoconservation: serious fun!

2 courses only (main plus either a starter or sweet)	£13.50
2 courses as above plus tea and coffee at the end	£16.00
3 courses	£16.50
3 courses plus tea and coffee at the end	£19.00



The Cardiff meetings take place in the Department of Earth Sciences, the Main Building, Cardiff University and the Swansea meetings in the Wallace Building (Department of Geography), Swansea University. The lectures begin at 11.00am with tea and coffee beforehand from about 10.15am. After the meetings the speaker is taken to lunch at a local hostelry to which all members are welcome to attend. Please note that the AGM begins at 10.30am with tea and coffee beforehand from 10.00am.

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.



50th Anniversary Lecture and Dinner

As you will recall from earlier Newsletters and announcements at the recent meetings we will be having a special lunch after Iain Stewart's talk on Saturday 23rd January 2010 to celebrate our 50th Anniversary on the actual anniversary day of the Group's first meeting in 1960. Lunch will be in the Park Plaza hotel in Greyfriars Road, Cardiff and the menu is below. You may have any of the following combinations:

We have to give the restaurant the full order in advance of the day so it is essential that those who wish to come have sent Stephen Howe their menu options and full payment by Monday 18th January 2010. Please make cheques payable to the Geologists' Association South Wales Group' and send both to Stephen at the National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP.

Roasted Butternut Squash, Sweet Chilli and Coriander Soup

Chicken Liver Parfait, Grape Chutney, Grilled Ciabatta Bread

LKB Prawn Cocktail, Granary Bread

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**'Gloucester Old Spot Pork' Cumberland Sausage, Caramelized Onion Mash, Roasting Jus**

**Whole Grilled Plalce, Shrimp and Tomato Butter Sauce, New Potatoes**

**Sweet Pepper Tarte Tatin, Grilled Goat's Cheese, Wild Rocket**

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Crème Brulee

Caramelized Lemon Tart, Vanilla Mascarpone, Rosemary Syrup

Dark Chocolate Mousse, Amaretto Biscuits

Pembrokeshire Weekend 2010

Following on from Brian Williams' superb talk on the Old Red Sandstone last session, he has agreed to run a weekend field meeting to Pembrokeshire over the weekend of Saturday 17th/Sunday 18th April 2010. Based at Tenby the weekend will concentrate on the theme of *New perspectives on the Old Red Sandstone of South Pembrokeshire*. As usual with such an excursion members will be able to attend just one of the days if they can not make the full weekend.

Brian is proposing to stay at the hotel he has used over many years of working in Pembrokeshire – the Fourcroft Hotel, Tenby. He has provided the following information about the weekend:

"The rate at the Fourcroft Hotel will be £72.00 per person D,B&B on a twin-sharing basis. I intend to stay there on the Fri. and Sat. nights, as the Hotel will act as HQ for the Trip [and all the maps, books, reprints, air photos and much more memorabilia on the ORS Research done in S. Pembs. will be on display in a dedicated room in the Hotel]. My two recent ex-Ph.D. research students on the ORS of S.Pembs - Rob Hillier and Lance Morrissey - will be in charge of this as well as helping me in the field over the two-day trip.

For those coming on the trip for ONE DAY only, below is a cryptic outline of the localities to be visited:-

SAT. 17 APRIL:

- (1) Albion Sands, Marloes
- (2) St. Brides Haven
- (3) Little Castle Head
- (4) Llanstadwell

(Trip will start at 10.00 am from the main car park at Marloes - return to Hotel c.6.30 pm. for 7.30 pm. Dinner in the Fourcroft [Drinks while perusing the Displays after Dinner]. Material will be on display from the Friday evening when Rob, Lance and I will be there).

SUN. 18 APRIL:

- (1) Freshwater West
- (2) Freshwater East
- (3) Manorbier - Old Castle Head traverse.

(Trip will start from main Fresh. West car park at 10.00 am. - trip ends in Manorbier c.6.00 pm)."

Fourcroft Hotel

North Beach
Tenby
Pembrokeshire
SA70 8AP

Tel: +44 (0)1 834 842 886

Fax: +44 (0)1 834 842 888

<http://www.fourcroft-hotel.co.uk/>

Could any member wishing to attend the weekend excursion and who is interested in staying at the Fourcroft Hotel please let the Stephen Howe know as soon as possible please.



South Wales RIGS Project

The South Wales RIGS project is well underway and we are always 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 so that we can recommend the very best to become RIGS.

Rhian will be organising a series of field days to investigate some of the many sites that have been identified. These days will follow a similar format to our old "conservation days" that we used to hold to investigate sites in Cardiff except that now the area covers the whole of South East Wales! These will be held on: **30th Jan, 27th Feb and the 27th March.** Please get in touch if you would like to come along.

Rhian. Email: rhnd1@bgs.ac.uk Tel: 2920 521962 (office hours)

Other Geological Organisations

***Severnside Branch of the Open
University Geological Society***

The group is holding a Symposium which will be held in Swansea University 9 - 11th July 2010. Theme: Cutting edge research from Welsh Universities. Full lecture programme and field trips. Cost to be determined. Keep an eye on website for more details http://ougs.org/society_events

Affordable Science

We have recently been contacted by a company which supplies geological equipment based in Caerphilly, called Affordable Science and Astronomy. Their web address is: www.affordablescience.com. Their prices are very reasonable, including offering deals for sets of geological kit. Please email them directly for more information and don't forget to mention the SWGA.

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 no longer running geological

classes. Some of the lecturers are continuing to run classes independently. Their contact details can be found on the following webpage www.gly.bris.ac.uk/ce). One of the lecturers; David Green has contacted us to ask that we publicise his classes to our membership. You can find more information at www.geostudies.co.uk.

- 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 (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk)
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott. www.ougs.org/severnside
- www.southwalesgeology.blogspot.com for geology events in South Wales



Please don't forget to send your renewals to Mike Gregory if you haven't already done so and if you are a tax payer, we would be very grateful if you could sign the gift aid forms as we can then claim the tax back!

Best Wishes. *Rhian Kendall 07963 732276; Rhian@carreq.org.uk*