

December 2012



Fifty-Fourth Session 2012-2013



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Other members of the committee:			
Lesley Cherns	John Davies	Tom Sharpe	Nigel McGaw
			Cindy Howells
			Gareth Owen

Winter Lecture Programme 2012/13 Organised by Stephen Howe

Stephen is putting together the field meeting programme for 2013 and would value any suggestions for venues and leaders.

Holiday Geology

Our annual Holiday Geology meeting takes place on Saturday 12th January 2013 in the National Museum of Wales from 11.00– 4.00pm. This is your opportunity to give a short presentation of anything geological that you have seen on your travels or other things that you might think might be of interest. Be assured that local is just as interesting as overseas so if you have not been abroad what you saw in the UK will still be of great interest so don't be put off offering to show your images. We will have a digital projector and lap-top on hand so if you bring your talks on a memory stick or CD we can load them onto the machine on the day. All talks should aim

to be about a maximum of 15mins in length. Stephen already has offers of a number of talks but still needs plenty more to fill the day so please let him know if you have something to offer.

Apart from the talks there will also be a book sale, small displays and the chance to chat informally and view the museum galleries. A buffet lunch will be provided for which there will be a small charge of £3/head taken on the day. We are organising a raffle so if you have some unwanted Christmas presents, why not donate them as prizes?

Please contact Stephen to let him know that you are coming along.

Date	Title	Speaker	Venue
Saturday 12th January	Holiday Geology	See above	National Museum Cardiff
Saturday 26th January	Fossil starfish - evolution and origin of the modern species	Andy Gale (Portsmouth University)	Swansea University
Saturday 23rd February	'Fifty Shades of Grey: communicating rocks'. [Joint Meeting with the Geological Society, South Wales Group]	Iain Stewart (Plymouth University)	Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, National Museum Cardiff
Saturday 23rd March	AGM – (10.30 start) The 1815 Tambora eruption: Impact on people, environment and climate	Jessica Kandlbauer (Bristol University)	Swansea University

Geology Rocks – 23rd February 2013

The Southern Wales Group of the Geology Society are organising a day event in the Museum with displays and demonstrations - want to know how to make a volcano? Want to learn more about the chocolate rock cycle? They will be revealing all on the day. They will also be running behind the scenes tours of the geology department and guided tours of the 'Evolution of Wales' exhibition.

Note:

From time to time meetings have to be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. When this occurs we put this information on the web site and send out an email to all those for whom we hold email details. If you are not on the email list and would like to be added please let the Membership Secretary know your email address.

Unless otherwise stated, all lectures start at 11.00 with coffee and tea served from 10.30. (The main exceptions are the AGM and Holiday Geology). The Swansea University venue is the Wallace Building (Department of Geography); the Cardiff University venue is the Wallace Lecture Theatre in the Main Building, Cardiff University. Please note that the February meeting will take place in the National Museum in Cardiff where it will form part of 'Geology Rocks', a 21st anniversary celebration of the South Wales Geology Society



Brian Williams Books/Reprints and Journals

We have so far raised over £200 from the sale of Brian's books – all proceeds are going into the group's funds. But you will still have the chance to secure yourself a bargain at Holiday Geology in January.

Membership subscriptions

Did you remember to renew your membership? If you have not yet received your membership card and details of the programme for this year it means you have not paid! Fortunately, it is not too late. We will still accept your money. And if you forgot to send in your completed Standing Order form there is still time

to do this before next year's subs are due. The forms are on the website. Click on '**contact us**' and then on the link near the bottom of the page for membership forms. The Standing Order Mandate is attached to the membership form. If you want to get a form in the traditional paper manner, get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Mike, or our Treasurer, Hazel, who will post them to you.

Change of Address (postal and email)

Remember to let Mike (Membership Secretary) know if you change your home address or your email so that we can stay in touch with you.

Data Protection Act

The Group keeps computerised and/or paper listings of members' names, contact details, membership, and Gift Aid declarations. These are used only within the SWGA for maintaining the membership, mailings, Gift Aid reclamations, an annual list of members, general administration, and matters relating to the carrying out of the Group's activities (may also include non-members and historical records). Please let the Membership Secretary know if you do not want your details kept on a computer listing, or if you do not wish to be on the annual list of members, or if you want to know the full details of the information the Group keeps about you.



Other Geological Organisations

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

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch, details of activities from Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru) details from Tim Palmer. tjp@aber.ac.uk
- U3A South Wales Geology Group details from Nigel McGaw. Tel: 01656 654439
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott www.ougs.org/severnside
- West Wales Geology Society www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk

Best wishes to you all from everyone on the Committee. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year



Getting to know your committee

Here is the first in an occasional series of profiles about members of the Group's committee. It is an opportunity to learn a little more about the people who work hard to keep the group active and interesting. I hope you enjoy it. This first article is about our current President, Geraint Owen.

It scares me to remind myself, but I joined the Geologists' Association South Wales Group back in 1984, when I started lecturing in the geology department at University College Swansea. I joined the committee as Field Excursions Secretary in 1989 and took over from Alun Thomas as Secretary in 1990. Alun had held that post since 1966 and was impossible to replace, particularly in terms of his meticulous record-keeping. Although I seemed to remain as Secretary for far longer than I should have, I only served 19 years, passing the job in 2009 to the far more capable hands of Lynda Garfield. My period as Secretary saw big changes for the Group, with a move to charitable status, a big increase in membership and a broadening of activities. Since then, there were a couple of days when I was not on the committee, but after being awarded Honorary Membership in 2009 – a very great honour indeed – I was elected President for two years from March 2012.

In the meantime, University College Swansea had morphed into Swansea University and Geology had disappeared as a department, but I continued to teach geology within the Department of Geography. I really enjoy teaching students and am delighted that I now teach a second-year course and a dedicated degree scheme that recognises the study of geology alongside physical geography. Last summer I had the wonderful experience of escorting 10 undergraduate students to the Colorado Plateau to undertake geological fieldwork on the amazing Navajo Sandstone for their geography dissertations. I enjoy giving talks about geology and leading field trips for all sorts of groups, and am always amazed by how much interest and enthusiasm there is "out there" for geology, and how lucky I am to have a job that pays me to be a geologist! I'm particularly proud to have been one of the authors – with Steve Howe and Tom Sharpe – of the Group's award-winning publication "Walking the Rocks" and hope there will be more of the type to follow.

Within geology, I'm a clastic sedimentologist, studying the conditions under which rocks like sandstone formed. To be more specific, I study soft-sediment deformation structures; structures formed by the disturbance of near-surface sediment, often as a result of earthquakes, and then preserved in sandstones. I gave a talk about it to the Group many years ago, and I can still see the glazed eyes and hear the snores! In the last few years, my study of soft-sediment deformation has taken me to the Colorado Plateau, Death Valley and southern Italy, as well as NW Scotland and other parts of Britain. I love travelling and exploring new places and feel privileged as a geologist to be able to find so much of interest in the world around us.

Geraint Owen