



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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January 2012

Fifty-Second Session 2011-2012



Indoor Meetings 2012



Saturday 14th January: Holiday
Geology National Museum of
Wales, Cardiff



Saturday 28th January:
Jonathan Lee (BGS) Cool
Britannia: From Milankopvitch
wobbles to Ice Ages. Swansea
University



Saturday 18th February:[Joint
Meeting with the geological
Society, South Wales Group]
Alex Maltman (); Wine, whisky
and beer: the role of geology.
Cardiff University



Saturday 17th March: AGM and
Presidential Address: Malcolm
Shaw: Where Plates Meet:
Danger and Delight. Swansea
University



***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.***

Winter Programme 2011-12

- by Stephen Howe

HOLIDAY GEOLOGY

Our annual Holiday Geology meeting
takes place at the National Museum,
Cardiff on Saturday 14th January
2012. The meeting begins at
11.00am and will finish by 4.00pm but
you are very welcome to only come
for part of the day if you wish. Once
again it is hosted by the Museum's
Geology Department. We will be
providing a small buffet lunch for
which you will be asked for a £2
contribution towards the costs. Brian
Drew is prepared to organise a raffle
and if you have any 'unwanted'
Christmas gifts then please consider
bringing them along for use as raffle
prizes. There will be some poster
and specimen displays as well as a
book sale. If you have any books that
you would be prepared to donate for

sale towards the Group's funds then please contact Tom Sharpe at the Museum

(tom.sharpe@museumwales.ac.uk).

To date I have received offers of short talks from five people so there is plenty of opportunity for other budding lecturers amongst you to come forward and give a presentation. It is a very social occasion and, as the name suggests, it is about geology and other things of interest that you have seen on your travels both near and far. If anybody is willing to volunteer could they let Stephen Howe know at the Museum beforehand please, so that I have time to work out a balanced running order (stephen.howe@museumwales.ac.uk)

Forthcoming Indoor Meetings

First of all, apologies to all of you who came to our December meeting expecting to hear Mike Bassett deliver the first Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture. Unfortunately, Mike was taken ill and was unable to attend on the day. We were extremely grateful to Cindy Howells who, at extremely short notice, volunteered to deliver a talk on J.F.Jackson, a remarkable amateur geologist, unknown to most people, but with strong local connections to Wales. It is hoped that the Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture will now take place at the start of the next indoor session in October 2012.

The three remaining lecture meetings for this session start with **Jonathan Lee**, from the British Geological

Survey, talking about **Cool Britannia: from Milankovitch wobbles to Ice Ages** on Saturday 28th January in Swansea. On February 18th we have our annual joint meeting with the Geological Society, South Wales Branch, in Cardiff, when **Alex Maltman** from Aberystwyth University will talk about **Wine, Whisky and Beer: the role of geology**. The final indoor meeting of the year takes place on Saturday 17th March in Swansea and is our **AGM and Presidential Address** entitled; **Where plates meet: danger and delight**. As many of you will be aware Malcolm and Jan recently went on a GA excursion to Japan so expect to see lots of fascinating images from this exotic location.

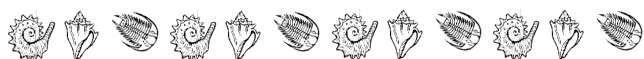
Summer Field Meetings 2012

Planning is gathering place for this summer's field meetings. Geraint Owen will lead Part 2 of his Pendine – Amroth excursion on Saturday 20th October to cover the stretch of coast from Marros to Amroth that we failed to complete at the Pendine meeting last October. Paul Oliver has agreed to lead an excursion to the Malverns on Saturday 16th June, and I am looking at other locations in the Forest of Dean and elsewhere. If there is somewhere that you would like to go and know of someone who might lead us please let me know.

The main GA is running a joint weekend field meeting with us to Central Wales, based around Rhayder, on the weekend of 4th/5th

August. This will be led by Jerry Davies and Dick Waters. Unfortunately, numbers have to be restricted to 30 so if you wish to come on this excursion you will need to book with the main GA and there will be a registration fee of £10.

With the field season approaching now is the time to think about making sure that you have the appropriate kit for such excursions. As you will be aware we do have a Safety Code but it is still up to individual members to make sure that they are kitted out appropriately for each excursion. You should make sure that you have strong, waterproof footwear and warm and waterproof clothing. It is recommended that if you wish to get close to cliffs and rock faces that you always wear a hard hat. These are compulsory in most working quarries and underground workings so it is a good idea to have your own as we cannot always guarantee to be able to find enough to lend out on excursions to such localities. The other piece of cheap kit that is worth obtaining is a reflective jacket. These can be obtained in many places including the main GA's shop.



Other News

GEOFEST 2011

Once again Geofest proved to be very successful. Over the weekend over 3,100 people visited the museum, many of whom took part in the range of activities on offer or viewed the various displays and stalls. On the

Saturday we were entertained to two excellent talks by John Nudds and Dave Martill, the latter almost giving two lectures in the length of time he spent answering and elaborating on our questions! Once again we had support from far afield with the Kent GA bringing their excellent micro-fossil workshop and the parent GA and Rockwatch coming down from London. We were also joined by the Open University and the OU Geological Society, CCW, BGS, the Fforest Fawr Geopark, a dinosaur poster supplier and the Museum's Department of Geology. It is quite an expensive event to run and we are especially grateful to the Museum for providing the space and equipment as well as help with the advertising and to OMV for their kind donation of £500. Geofest has tended to be a bi-annual event so may well occur in our programme for 2013.

RIGS

The South Wales RIGS audit is now all but complete and many of our members have made a huge contribution to the project. However... this need not be the end of the RIGS story in South East Wales. I am interested in finding out if anyone is interested in continuing the good work as part of a new RIGS group. We could look into adopting and clearing sites, work with community groups to learn about their local geology, perhaps writing walks leaflets or designing interpretation boards... If you think that you would like to get involved or have ideas for a group like this, please get in touch with me – Rhian (Rhian@carreg.org.uk)

07963732276). I can then arrange a date for us all together to talk through some ideas.

News from the committee

– by Lynda Garfield

Since the last newsletter, the committee has met twice. Our meeting in September was unfortunately not quorate, but the November meeting was well attended and we were able to move on and adopt several items.

Our data protection statement has been updated (see the last newsletter), we have adopted a new Gift Aid form (in use this autumn), and we have made changes to the Field Safety Policy and Code.

Clause 9 of the Field Safety Policy, regarding first aiders and first aid kits, has been deleted, as we have not been able to provide these at meetings (similar provision has been a problem to other groups). Clause 8 has been amended, by taking out the second sentence about the provision of safety equipment by the group, and changing the first sentence to - "Group members are encouraged to obtain and bring their own safety equipment eg safety helmets, goggles if hammers are to be used, reflective jackets, stout footwear, and when required steel toe capped boots, mobile phone".

To the Safety Code, a second

sentence has been added to the fourth bullet point - "If particular equipment is needed for a particular site, notice will be given". To the first bullet point the second sentence has been amended to - "Any injury or safety issues that arise during the meeting must be reported to (the field meeting coordinator) as soon as possible".

As previously, and following clause 4 of our safety policy, the safety code (and policy) will be distributed as a flier to all participants (including non-members) at the start of each field meeting.

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
- 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