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July 2012

Fifty-Third Session 2012-2013

Welcome to the July newsletter. Rhian has passed the task of compiling the Newsletter on to me. I think we all owe her a great vote of thanks for the excellent job she has done over the past 5 years in producing the Newsletter on a regular basis. I know she is a very busy lady with many other commitments so thank you very much, Rhian, for all your hard work. We have a new President, Geraint Owen, who many of you will know from his long involvement with the Group. He took over at the AGM in March.

This is my first edition of the Newsletter but I don't think you will see many changes in format yet. I would be happy to receive suggestions or contributions towards the content. If you think something maybe of interest to others in the Group, please let me know.

Janet



Summer Programme 2012 by Stephen Howe

The field meeting programme to date has gone very well, despite the determination of the weather to make things as uncomfortable as possible. Details of the next field meetings are as follows:

Saturday 21st July: *Ffos y Fran, Merthyr Tydfil.*

This field meeting has to be restricted to 24 members due to site access so

members **must book in advance** on a first come basis with Stephen Howe (steve.howe@museumwales.ac.uk or tel 029 2057 3363). We will receive an introduction to the site works and will then be taken onto the site by Landrover to look at the exposed Coal Measures geology which will be explained to us by Rhian Kendall. Meeting instructions will be provided to those who book closer to the date. Please note that strong footwear, a reflective jacket and a hard hat **are essential** for this excursion. Currently most places on this excursion

are booked but anybody else wishes to go could they please contact Stephen Howe **asap**.



Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th August:

Central Wales: Leaders: Dick Waters and Gerry Davies.

This is a joint weekend field meeting with the Parent GA based around Rhayader. Members may attend on only one day if preferred. Numbers are restricted to 30 and places **must be booked in advance** with Sarah Stafford at the Geologist's Association office (geol.assoc@btinternet.com). There will be a £10 administration charge for the full weekend and £5 for single day participants to help cover the cost of the leaders' expenses. This is a great chance to be taken through this newly mapped area by the people involved in its interpretation and also to fly the flag for the SWGA with the parent body. Currently 15 people have booked for the full weekend so there are still places.



Saturday 15th September: *The Forest of Dean:*

Leader: Tom Cotterell

Meet at the New Fancy View car park (SO 627 096), near Parkend, at 10.00am. Bring a packed lunch. The excursion will involve a walk of several miles, which at times may be on uneven ground, as well driving to several sites in convoy. It will provide a broad introduction to the geology of the Forest of Dean and then focus on the iron mineralisation with a little about the coal.



Saturday 20th October: *Amroth – Marros Sands,*

Carmarthenshire: Leader: Geraint

Owen

Meet at 12.00 noon at the eastern end of Amroth Beach, near the New Inn (SN 172 072). Bring a packed lunch. This excursion will examine the superb complete sections through the upper part of the Namurian Millstone Grit and the basal part of the Coal Measures along the foreshore and cliffs around Telpyn Point. The rocks represent several advances of large river-mouth deltas into a muddy sea, associated with changes in sea level. There will be some strenuous walking involved, beginning with a walk up and over the headland of Telpyn Point to reach Marros Sands. The return will be along the rocky foreshore, where the rocks are often slippery, and will involve some clambering over rock steps. The total walking distance will be about 5 miles (8 km).

Other field meetings:



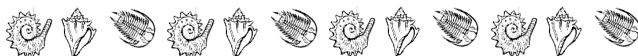
Saturday 14th July, Flatholm Island

The Welsh Stone Forum is making a visit to Flatholm Island on Saturday 14th July to look at the island and its building stones. There are likely to be spare places on the excursion that the Forum is happy to offer to SWGA members. The boat will leave from Penarth Marine at 11.30am and return about 17.15pm. The boat fare is £22 for adults. If any member is interested in attending they need to contact Dr Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk). Please note that no bookings can be taken through the SWGA.



From time to time, for reasons beyond the control of the Group,

meetings unfortunately have to be cancelled. If such a situation arises then every attempt will be made to put this information on the web site. Please also see our website (or ask at the field meetings) to see our safety policy.



Winter Programme 2012/13

Planning for the winter series of lectures is well under way with only one talk still to be confirmed. Please note the following dates for your diaries:

- **Saturday 13th October (Cardiff) tbc**
- **Saturday 17th November (Swansea) Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture: Adam to Douglas: a geohistorical journey through North Wales: Mike Bassett**
- **Saturday 15th December (Cardiff): Copper Mineralisation: Tom Cottrell (Joint meeting with the Russell Society)**
- **Saturday 12th January 2013: Holiday Geology: Amgueddfa Cymru- National Museum Wales**
- **Saturday 26th January (Swansea): Fossil starfish – evolution and origin of the modern species: Andy Gale**
- **Saturday 23rd February (Cardiff): Seismic faults and sacred places: Iain Stewart (Joint meeting with the Geological Society, South Wales Group)**
- **Saturday 23rd March (Swansea) AGM: Geology of Antarctica Tom**

Sharpe

Other Events

Sunday 19th August: Out of the Woods Festival, Bute Park, Cardiff. 10.00- 16.00

Once again the society has been asked to take part in this annual event in Bute Park organised by Cardiff County Council Parks Department. We will be taking our 'fossil bashing' activity that is always so popular, as well as sales items, and will be seeking volunteers to help out on the day, even for only an hour or so. This event is always very well supported by the public and gives us a chance to attract new members and sell geology to a wider audience. Could anybody who is willing to help please contact Stephen Howe (steve.howe@museumwales.ac.uk or tel 029 2057 3363)

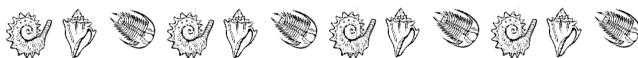
Saturday/Sunday 13th & 14th October - Rivers through Time

The parent body of GA is organising a conference in Exeter in conjunction with the Devonshire Association's 150th Anniversary. The weekend event features lectures, posters and field excursions. Further details from Sarah Stafford geol.assoc@btinternet.com

Saturday 19th November: GA Festival of Geology, London

This year's annual Festival of Geology will take place a week later than usual over the weekend of 10th/11th November, based at University College London, in Gower Street. The Society will be having a stall as usual to highlight our activities, sell our wares and make contact with members from other groups. The exhibition runs from 10.00-16.00 on the Saturday in the Cloisters of University College and as well as the exhibits and sales stalls there are a series of popular

lectures while for those who wish to make a weekend of it there are a series of field trips on the Sunday. We will be seeking volunteers to help out on the stall so if anybody is interested in going could they please contact Stephen Howe (steve.howe@museumwales.ac.uk or tel 029 2057 3363).



Other News

Remember to renew your membership!

Your membership is due for renewal by 1st September. Forms have been attached for your use with this Newsletter including a Standing Order form.

Payment of subscriptions by Standing Order is new for SWGA. It is hoped that this will enable members to renew annually more easily – you won't have to remember to send us a cheque. It will also be much simpler for Hazel, our treasurer, as the money will go directly into the Bank Account. Please do complete the form and return it to Mike, the Membership Secretary, as soon as possible.

Have you considered receiving the Newsletter by e-mail? You would save the Group on paper and postage, particularly in view of the recent increase in postage. Contact Mike Gregory if you are willing to receive it this way.

Geology Today - Back copies

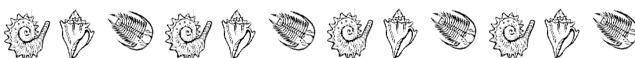
A member has informed us that she has 40 back copies of 'Geology Today' magazine. She is loathe to dispose of these into waste bags so is offering them to members, if you are able to collect them. She lives in Rhiwbina. Please

contact the Webmaster for details if you are interested.

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.ugs.org/severnside



Study Courses in Cardiff

Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning are running 2 geology courses this Autumn. One Tutor is Tom Sharpe and the other is Nick Chidlaw. You can find details on the website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn

