

Carboniferous Limestone either side of this zone.

- The occurrence of celestine in Triassic nodules is more extensive than previously reported.

- Previous small scale mining activity on Bendrick Rock is considered possible.

Bendrick Rock is recommended for consideration as a RIGS or SINC designation on account of the level of MVT mineralisation found there.

involved:

Ben.evans@museumwales.ac.uk

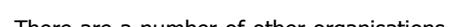
Office hours phone number:

029 20573305



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 (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 (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk)



Other Events

The South Wales Coalfield Geo Heritage Network project are having a **Geological Conservation Day on Sat 11th Oct 10:30am-4pm**

This involved digging and clearing at Wern Ddu SSSI Caerphilly Grid Ref ST 168 862. There will also be a walk, talk and digging led by project manager Ben Evans.

Bring sturdy shoes, gloves and your favourite tools. Some specialist equipment will be provided. Tea Coffee and Cold drinks provided please bring your own packed lunch.

Car parking available, dogs welcomed. Contact Ben if you would like to get



Some sad news to end on. We have heard that John Perkins has recently passed away. John was a long standing member of the SWGA and a past Chairman. He was also known to many as the Head of Lifelong Learning at Cardiff for many years and leader of many a fascinating and enjoyable geological field excursion in the UK and abroad.

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June 2008

Fiftieth Session 2008-2009

Welcome to the June newsletter and the 50th Summer Season. We have had a great start with a walk in Fishguard, lead by Huw Sheppard. The walk to Aust Cliff and Portishead with Peter Hodges and Geraint Owen, which was greatly enjoyed by me as I found a chunk of dinosaur bone at the former and a piece of fish in the afternoon! We have also had a walk to look at the Quaternary of the Gower lead by John Hiemstra – a great start to the summer. Thank you to the organisers for their hard work. Rhian



Field Meetings 2008

Saturday 19th July

Geology and Conservation of the Clydach Gorge

Leader: John Davies

Meet 10:45 We meet at the Clydach car park - O.S. SHEET 161 SO 233 136, located on the south side of the A465 just north of Clydach and approximately 1 mile south west of Gilwern.

The field trip will re-examine the classical north -eastern coalfield succession from the Devonian up to the Westphalian at Clydach Gorge National Nature Reserve. The trip will be on foot, moderately strenuous in places, and bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 31st August

Waterwynch to Saundersfoot

Leader: Sid Howells

(other inputs welcomed)

Meeting 10.30 (latest please) at Regency Hall car park, Saundersfoot (situated behind amusement arcade - **not the seafront car park**). Refreshments and toilets before start and at finish of walk. We will then reorganise to take minimum number of cars to start of walk near Monkstone Bay (limited parking).

Walk distance approximately 3 miles, returning to Saundersfoot by about 17.00. Mostly firm sand, but some short stretches of foreshore rock and boulders which cannot be avoided.

*Optional scrambling over intertidal rock to try to reach the extreme SW of the section at Waterwynch – plenty to see and do if you decide not to do this

Features: Coal Measure sequence, complex folding & faulting, coastal scenery of western Carmarthen Bay

Bring packed lunch, waterproof jacket &

trousers, and safety helmet if you plan to go close under cliffs (limited number available to loan)

Saturday 27th September The Woolhope Inlier

Leader: Bob Owens
Meeting details to come.

.....Additional field meeting.....

October 24th-26th 2008 North Cornwall and North Devon

It has not proved possible to organise a long weekend excursion to Cork this year but instead we are proposing to visit North Cornwall and Devon under the guidance of Ted Freshney and Richard Scrivener (ex BGS).

The plan is to travel down on the Friday afternoon/evening and have all day Saturday and most of Sunday in the field, aiming to leave by about 4.00pm on the Sunday for the return to Cardiff. Ted suggests that we stay in or near Bude. Could all those interested in please let Stephen Howe know



Other diary dates for 2008

Saturday 5th/Sunday 6th July Penarth Festival

The Group has been invited to take part in the Penarth Festival this year by running a rock, fossil and mineral identification desk on both days from about 10.30 - 5:00pm. We will be based in the Kymin in Penarth and intend setting up a small display and sales stand as well. Even if you do not wish to help out on the identification desk, why not come along and see what's

happening?

Saturday 15th November GA Regional Meeting day

National Museum of Wales

As part of the parent body's 150th anniversary celebrations, the group is hosting a special geological day at the National Museum in Cardiff from 10:00am-5:00pm. Booked so far are talks by Phil Manning (Manchester) on dinosaurs and Alison Rust (Bristol) on volcanoes, plus displays, a micro-fossil and fossil sharks' teeth workshop, a building stones walk with Eric Robinson, Rockwatch, behind the scenes tours and other activities. Full details to follow.

Welsh Stone Forum

The Welsh stone Forum has produced its summer field meeting programme of which the following locations are within the SWGA region. All members are welcome to attend

Saturday 6th September Pontypool and the Shell Grotto

Leader: John Shipton
Meet at 11:00am at Pontypool carpark (SO 2827 0109).



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.



News

As you may have heard at our lecture meetings, plans are afoot for our **50th Anniversary** celebrations. If you have any ideas for speakers or places that you would like to visit or even ideas for an event, please let any of the committee know. The committee has been considering an **Anniversary Dinner and after dinner speaker** and would appreciate your feedback as to if this is something that we would like to do and your suggestions for venues and speakers. Please let me know.

Wales. Regional Geology Guide

Copies of this book which were ordered by members have been brought to various meetings. Please let me know if you are going attend one of our meetings and I'll see that your copy will be there.

South Wales RIGS

As of April this year, there is a new RIGS group, covering South Wales. This is a collaborative project, involving the British Geological Survey, The National Museum of Wales, The Geological Society, Fforest Fawr Geopark, Brecon Beacons National Park, Cardiff University and ourselves. This exciting project will involve a review of geological sites to assess their suitability to be designated as a "Regionally Important Geodiversity Site".

The project will be running over the next three years and we hope to get as many of our members involved as we can. If you know of a site that shows a particular feature that you think is important, let us know. The SWGA are going to be hosting the website for the new group and providing volunteers to go and assess sites. If you think that you can help, please let myself or Tom Sharpe know.

Even if you are don't confident, please come along. This kind of field work really is the best way to learn. Dates of site visits will appear in our newsletter and website.

Minerals of the Glamorgan coast : Barry Island and adjacent areas

Lynda Garfield and Dave Wellings have now finished their report for the Russell Society Wales and West branch on "Minerals of the Glamorgan coast : Barry Island and adjacent areas".

Copies are available, but because of the number of photographs and other illustrations in it, and problems with the printing of these at a suitable quality for an affordable price, the copies are being distributed on DVD disc as a .pdf file for a small charge.

For further details, please contact Lynda (02920 891588; lyndagarfield@tesco.net) or Dave (01446 700414).

The report gives a comprehensive account of previous mineral finds, plus details of recent finds made since 2004, with photographs. Numerous new finds have been made, rather more mineralisation than previously known about has been identified especially on Bendrick Rock, and comparisons along the outcrop investigated have led to some interesting conclusions and outstanding questions. These include:

- The Mississippi Valley Type (MVT) mineralisation is, as a result of careful observation, considered to be of both pre-Triassic and post-Triassic age, possibly involving some remobilisation. Age dating of the various associations of galena would be interesting.
- A reactivated fault zone orientated 340° close to the Cadoxton River is postulated, to account for significant differences in the geology and mineralisation of the