



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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June 2009

Fiftieth Session 2008-2009

Welcome to the June newsletter. We've had a great start to the season with fantastic walks led by Tom Sharpe around the Rudry area and John Davies in North-west Carmarthenshire. I'm certainly looking forward to more across the summer. This newsletter is packed with events coming up across the field season as well as a preview of events that are being organised for our Anniversary year. Between activities organised by the SWGA and other organisations in the area it promises to be a busy time! See you there... Rhian



Field Meetings 2009



Saturday 25th July
Exploring the landforms and deglaciation of the Middle Usk Valley in the Abergavenny area
Leader: Adrian Humpage (BGS)

Meet at 10.00am outside the Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre in the main car park opposite the bus station (SO 302 140). Bring a packed lunch.

This excursion will examine the glacial limits of the Usk glacier and some of the recessional features associated with a retreating ice margin. Evidence associated with the timing of the deglaciation of the area will be considered and some of the problems of tributary glaciers and how they decoupled from the main ice mass. The deposits and evidence of climatic amelioration and Holocene landscape change will also be examined.



Saturday 22nd August
Burrington Combe, Mendip
Leader: Andy Farrant (BGS)

Meet at 10.30am at the Burrington Coombe Café

car park, just below the 'Rock of Ages' (ST 476 587). Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will be by foot around Burrington Combe and the East and West Twin Valleys examining the Carboniferous Limestone succession, the overlying Triassic and plenty of caves and karstic features. An idea of what we will see can be found in the BGS publication The Walkers Guide to the Geology and Landscape of Western Mendip by Andy Farrant.



Saturday 26th September
St Davids, Pembrokeshire
Leader: Dyfed Elis Gruffydd

Please note that the date for this field meeting has had to change due to unforeseen circumstances. It will now take place on Saturday 26th September and not on 19th as stated in the Programme Card.

Meet at 11.00am at the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park car park near the Bishop's Palace in St Davids (SM 749 254). Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will begin with an examination of

the building stones of the Cathedral and then proceed to Pont y Penyd Quarry, Porth Clais, and if time permits, St Non's Bay. The day will be spent looking at the rocks of the Peibidian Volcanic Complex, the Cambrian Caerfai and Solva Groups and the late Plesitocene.



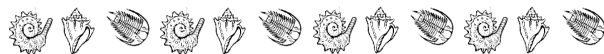
Saturday 24th October

**Cwm Gwrelech and Selar Opencast,
Neath Valley**

Leader: Ben Evans (BIGC)

Meet at 10.30am at Cwm Gwrelech, near Pont Walby, Pontneddfechan (SN 891 065). Bring a packed lunch.

The morning will be spent examining the Coal Measures sequence in Cwm Gwrelech and the afternoon that in the Selar Opencast mine. The underfoot conditions may be slippery and muddy especially after heavy rain.



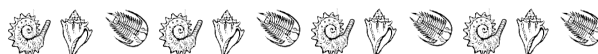
Indoor Meetings 2009 - 2010

A sneak preview of the coming lecture season from our Programme Secretary:

During our next indoor session we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our first ever lecture, which took place on Saturday 23rd January 1960. It just so happens that the 23rd January 2010 is also a Saturday so that we can celebrate on the actual day. I am delighted to say that Dr Iain Stewart of the University of Plymouth has agreed to come and speak to us on that day about his new series How Earth made us, that he is currently filming, so make a note in your dairies. Other talks already booked include; Prof John Cope who will look at how the plate tectonic theory has been accepted and evolved over the last 50 years; Dr Richard Scrivener (ex BGS) on Permian and Triassic mineralisation in the rocks of South-west England; Dr Marc Jones (UCL) on non-mammalian micro-vertebrates; and of course your President who is planning a lecture about Geoconservation.

Our annual social members meeting 'Holiday Geology' will take place on Saturday 9th January 2010 and will be an all-day event at the National Museum, Cardiff so with the summer holidays

coming up now is the time to start taking the photos and planning your talk!



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.



Geoconservation Workdays

Following on from the successful geoconservation day at Wern Ddu that we participated in last October, Ben Evans will be arranging two more such meetings this coming November: Saturday 7th November at Cwm Gwrelech and Saturday 14th November at Wern Ddu. The objective of both days will be to undertake site clearance work that, depending upon your fitness and drive, can range from barrowing away scree to cleaning rock faces of vegetation - 'gardening'! All tools will be provided and although both meetings will be full day events, starting at 10.00am, it is up to you how long you participate. Full meeting details will appear in a later Newsletter but if any of you are interested in participating in these or any other such activities with the South Wales Coalfield Geo Heritage Project then contact the Project Manager, Ben Evans by email (ben.evans@museumwales.ac.uk).



Summer Events

Out of the Woods Festival

Cardiff County Council have asked the Group to participate once again in their annual Out of the Woods Festival in Bute Park. The event takes place on Sunday 23rd August from 10.00-4.00pm. We will be having our usual stand and the Coal Measures fossil bashing activity. As always we are always grateful for any assistance that you can give to help make this event for as

long or as short as you can manage. If anybody is willing to help out could they please contact Stephen Howe.

Geofest

Following on from the highly successful Geofest day that we ran at the National Museum of Wales last November, as our contribution to the main GA's 150th anniversary celebrations, we have been under a lot of pressure to make this a regular event. After discussions with the museum and other groups we have decided that it should be a biennial event with the next occurring in autumn 2010. Groups interested in coming have already expressed an interest so next time could well be bigger and better than last so pencil it in to your diaries now!

50th Anniversary Dinner

To mark the 50th anniversary of our first lecture we are planning to hold a special lunch after Iain Stewart's talk somewhere in the city centre. We will be looking at all of the options but of course will need to book somewhere in advance as we assume that more people may wish to join us that day than normally come. Because of this we will be asking that members book in advance. More details will appear in the later Newsletter but put the date in your diary now!

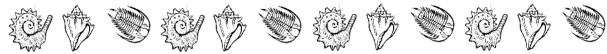
Newport Building Stones

Appearing shortly will be the next in our series of geological walks leaflets, a building stones walk through the centre of Newport. Written by Eric Robinson this walk takes you on a stroll from the central railway station down High Street and up Stow Hill to St Woolo's Cathedral. There are some very interesting things to see, such as borings from the Common Piddock in blocks of Old Red Sandstone in the walls of St Woolo's Cathedral that show that the stone was derived from a tidal locality, probably somewhere alongside the river. Once it has been printed it will be distributed to members with the next mailing.

Cathays Cemetary

Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff celebrates its centenary this year. This large, Victorian cemetery hosts a wealth of grave memorials both to the famous and not so famous in a large variety of stone, both local and exotic. As part of their celebrations they are in the process of

publishing a book that includes a chapter on the general geology of the cemetery, which will be launched at their centenary open days over the weekend of 11th-12th July this year. As a follow up the Friends group are interested in producing a geological trail which they have asked us to assist them with so watch this space.



Other Events

***Fforwm Cerrig Cymru / Welsh Stone
Forum programme 2009***

Saturday 27th June: Llanddewi Brefi, Strata Florida and Llanbadarn Fawr

Leaders: John Davies and Tim Palmer

Meet at 11.00am in the square in front of the church, Llanddewi Brefi [SN 663 553]

Saturday 12th September: Llangollen and Valle Crucis

Leader: Jacqui Malpas and Raymond Roberts

Meet at 11.00am in the central car park,
Llangollen [SJ 214 420]

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

12th July, Duncan Hawley is leading an excursion which will follow the geology and landscape from the Wye to the Usk up the Llynfi Valley on the western rim of the Black Mountains, exploring the ancient environments of the Old Red Sandstone underlying the area; and the more recent invasion of ice into the Llangorse Basin, examining where it came from and how long it stayed.

(full details on the website
www.ouqs.org/severnside)

In addition the Open University Geological Society organises an Annual Symposium - a weekend of Lectures and fieldtrips - at the end of July which this year is in Leeds, theme is 'Yorkshire rocks!' I realise it is a long way for folk in south Wales but if you have particular

interest in that area or are perhaps planning a holiday up that way this summer you might be interested. Everyone is welcome.
www.ougs.org/society events.

Cardiff Naturalists' Society

Geology and landforms between Southerndown and Nash Point.

Tom Sharpe

Saturday 4th July Southerndown

Start time 10am Full day, packed lunch

Distance will depend on the weather and what we find but could be 7 miles. Some walking will be on rocks so stout shoes advisable. Meet outside the Glamorgan Heritage Visitor Centre, Dunraven Bay, at 10am. Car park charges apply.

South Wales RIGS Project

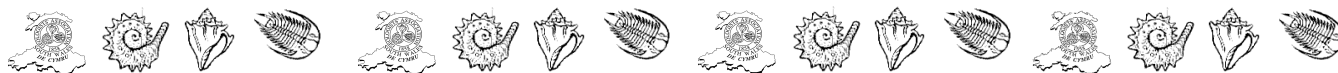
The South Wales RIGS project is well underway and we are always looking for volunteers to help. Our literature searches have revealed a large number of potentially interesting sites across the region and we need help to see if they still exist so that we can recommend the very best to become RIGS.

If you would like to get involved with data searches, field work or to tell us about sites that you think should be included, please get in touch. Rhian. Email: rhnd1@bgs.ac.uk Tel: 2920 521962

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
- Bristol University Continuing Education are running a range of courses, dayschools and study tours. Further details from Barbara Perks, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol (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)
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott. www.ougs.org/severnside
- www.southwalesgeology.blogspot.com for geology events in South Wales



I'd like to end this newsletter with a plea. The SWGA has an archive of paperwork and photographs from through out its existence but we would like to build on the collection with memorabilia from down the years. If you have anything that you think should be added to our archives, please get in touch with myself or Tom Sharpe (Tom.Sharpe@museumwales.ac.uk). We can arrange to copy or scan material and return it if necessary.

Best Wishes. Rhian Kendall 07963 732276; Rhian@carreg.org.uk