



June 2013

Fifty-Fourth Session 2012-2013



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<b>Other members of the committee:</b>			
Lesley Cherns	John Davies	Tom Sharpe	Nigel McGaw
			Cindy Howells
			Charlotte West



## Field Meetings

We have had two very successful field excursions to date and the weather has not been too bad considering the summer that we haven't had yet. Geraint's excursion to Bishopston Valley in April was extremely well supported (36) helped no doubt by the superb weather. The weekend excursion to Pembrokeshire in May, led by Sid Howells, was not so well supported but was an excellent two days of coastal walks with excellent geology. There are still four more excursions to go so over the page is a reminder of what is on offer and we hope to see as many of you as possible on these remaining trips.

### 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.

### Safety Policy

All participants in field events must be aware of our safety rules and regulations. Copies of this can be found on our website or ask a Committee Member at a field meeting.



## Summer programme 2013

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June: Brecon Beacons**

**Leader: John Davies**

Is the Middle Devonian missing in south Wales? This excursion will provide a traverse from Cwm Graig Cerrig Gleisiad to the lower slopes of Fan Fawr through a section from the middle of the Senni Beds to the middle of the Brownstones, which displays excellent examples of changing palaeogeography in the rocks of the upper part of the Lower Devonian – or is it?

Meet at 10.30am at the car park at Cwm Graig Cerrig Gleisiad (SN 972 223) north of Storey Arms on the A470. Packed lunch essential. Total walking distance about 3 miles but there are some steep climbs.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July: Coln Gravel Pit, Cotswold Water Park**

**Leader: Neville Hollingworth (Science & Technology Funding Council)**

This is a joint meeting with the Bristol Naturalists' Society, Bath Geological Society and West of England GA.

This excursion gives a rare opportunity to see a highly fossiliferous sequence in the Oxford Clay with ammonites, molluscs, marine reptiles and overlying Terrace gravels with rich and diverse warm and cold stage mammoth fauna and an opportunity to find Palaeolithic hand axes.

Meet at the main quarry gates on the haul road through the yellow gates at Coln Gravel Works (SP 187 001) which lies approximately 2 miles east of Fairford on the A417 towards Lechlade. It is signposted to Hanson Coln Gravel and Bowmoor Sailing Lake. The gates will be open from 10:00am and we will have to leave quarry by 3pm. High Visibility vests are essential and Wellington boots are strongly recommended as it is likely to be very muddy. Bring a packed lunch.

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August: Freshwater West and West Angle, Pembrokeshire**

**Leader: John Nudds (Manchester University)**

This excursion will examine the local succession from the Llanvirn to the Lower Carboniferous (Main Limestone), looking at the evidence for different depositional environments. There are a variety of rock types, interesting trace and body fossils plus classic folding and faulting for which the area has been designated an SSSI. Meet at 10.30am in the main car park at Freshwater West (SM 885 995). Either bring a packed lunch or lunch can be taken at the Hibernia Inn at West Angle. There are toilets at both Freshwater West and West Angle.

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Mynydd Llangynidr, near Trefil**

**Leader: Alan Bowring (Forest Fawr Geopark)**

Mynydd Llangynidr is a world-class interstratal karst site as recently recognised by its SSSI designation. The excursion will entail walking a circuit of many of the more interesting karstic features from Trefil, north past Llyn y Garn-fawr and Chartist Cave, passing from the Twrch Sandstone onto the limestone outcrop, and to the Neath Disturbance before heading back south in a circular fashion. The walk is approximately 9.5km/6miles although it can be varied on the day according to the weather and the inclinations of the group! We should be back at the cars for between 4pm and 5pm.

Meet at Trefil (SO 122 128) for a 10am start. To get there, turn right up the sweeping hill in the heart of Trefil village and park where the northwestern end of the former tram road (modern bridleway) meets the road at the top corner. Much of the area lies at around 1700ft /530m above sea level and is very exposed so it is essential to come prepared for inclement weather. A packed lunch is also required.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October: Llyn Brianne, Powys**

**Leader: David Schofield (British Geological Survey)**

Unfortunately, this excursion has had to be postponed until next year's programme



## Winter Session 2013/2014

Please note these dates in your diary.

**Saturday 12th/19th October:** (Swansea) Ian Skilling (University of Glamorgan): Hot and cold: Volcanic eruptions beneath the ice

**Saturday 23rd November:** (Cardiff) Brian Williams (Aberdeen University): Permo-Carboniferous glaciation and its effect on the ORS [Title tbc]

**Saturday 14th December:** (Swansea) The T.R.Owen memorial Lecture: Andy Gale (Portsmouth



## Other Events

### GA Festival of Geology:

The Group will be attending the GA Festival of Geology (Annual Reunion) at University College London on Saturday 2nd November where we will have a small display and sales stand. The event runs from 10.30 am – 4.30pm. It is an excellent day out with exhibits from both the commercial world and local groups; sales stands where you can purchase all things geological; talks (by Iain Stewart, Jane Francis, Susan Schwenzner and Maria McNamara) and a local buildings stones walk. For those who want to make a weekend of it there are more field excursions and walks on the Sunday to suit all



## Membership matters....

### Newsletter Costs

With postage charges so high now it costs us a minimum of 70p to send out paper copies of this newsletter. E-mail is free and quicker – and you get the photos in colour! If you still receive your copy through the post, please consider whether you could get it electronically? If so, let Mike Gregory know and he will put your email address on the circulation list.

### Membership subscriptions

Did you remember to complete a standing order form for your subscriptions? If not, there is still time to set one up ready for renewals due in September. Forms on the website or from Mike.

### Facebook

If you are a friend of SWGA on Facebook you will be receiving reminders of events from Marnix, our Publicity Officer. He also puts photos of the trips up for everyone to see so even if you weren't able to go, you can still see the geology. This group is very secure and you do not need to give out any personal details in order to receive these messages and enjoy the pictures.

University): Fossil starfish - evolution and origin of the modern species

**Saturday 11th January 2014:** (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) Holiday Geology

**Saturday 25th January:** (Cardiff) Robert Owens (National Museum of Wales): Geology of Mars [Title tbc]

**Saturday 22nd February:** (Swansea): tbc [possibly shale gas/fracking]

**Saturday 22nd March:** (Cardiff) AGM and Presidential Address (Geraint Owen) [Title tbc]



tastes. Further information can be obtained from the main GA site. We will be looking for volunteers to help man the stand during the day so if anybody is interested in helping out please let Lynda, our Secretary know (your expenses will be covered).

**Welsh Stone Forum:** The Welsh Stone Forum has two meetings coming up later this summer.

**Saturday 13th July: The building stones of Llanidloes:** Leader: John Davies (tbc)

**Saturday 8th /Sunday 9th September: The building stones of Flintshire:** Leaders: Fiona Gayle (Flintshire County Archivist) and Jana Horak. Full details can be found on the Welsh Stone Forum web site.



## Honorary Life Members



During the last year, the Committee decided it was appropriate to nominate 3 members as deserving on the status 'Honorary Life Member' in recognition of their long standing and significant contribution to the Group. These were Howard Bartlett and Professors John Cope and Brian Williams. At the AGM in March, Rhian, our vice president, presented Howard and John each with a citation scroll to mark the occasion. Brian will receive his presentation at the November meeting.



### South East Wales RIGS

A constitution is in the process of being drafted and a further meeting to consider it will be arranged in the new future. If you would like to

join in and help or would like more information please contact Nigel McGaw on 01656 654439 or e-mail at [nimar@nmcgaw.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nimar@nmcgaw.freeserve.co.uk)

### Other Geological Organisations

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

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch, details of activities from Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Ffowr Cerrig Cymru) details from Tim Palmer.

[tjp@aber.ac.uk](mailto:tjp@aber.ac.uk)

- U3A South Wales Geology Group details from Nigel McGaw. Tel: 01656 654439
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott [ougs.org.uk/severnside](http://ougs.org.uk/severnside)
- West Wales Geology Society [www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk](http://www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk)

