



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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# March 2008

**Forty Ninth Session 2007-2008**

2008 is off to a great start with lots of interesting lectures so far. Holiday Geology was, as usual, a great day with many varied presentations from our members. A big thank to the National Museum of Wales for sponsoring the event. Hugh Torrens lecture about Mary Anning was both entertaining and informative. It was certainly a lively lecture. Huw Sheppard spoke to us most recently about his work remapping the Fishguard district. It was a fascinating insight not only into the geology of that area but also the current policies and practice of the BGS. If you missed it, you can read about it on Huws website: [www.huwsheppard.net/programme.htm](http://www.huwsheppard.net/programme.htm). The last indoor meeting this season will be our AGM and presentation from Tom Sharpe when he will hand over to our new President; Nigel McGaw. **Rhian**



**Saturday 15th March at 10:30am  
(From 10am for coffee).**

**(Swansea)**

**AGM and Presidential Address**  
**John MacCulloch and William Smith: the men and their maps.**  
**Tom Sharpe.**

personalities and the remarkable stories behind these first maps.



**Field Meetings 2008**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
**The Gash Breccias of the Pembrokeshire**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Bullslaughter Bay Syncline**  
Leaders: Peter Walsh and Sid Howells

Meet at the National Trust Broadhaven Beach car park (SR 976 938) at 10:00am  
We will be concentrating on the Gashes at Trevallen, Bullslaughter Bay and Flimston, with incidental references to other aspects of the local geology.

**Sunday 9th March**

The beginnings of geological map-making in Britain 200 years ago were fraught for the men behind them. Smith struggled to make a living as he worked singlehandedly to produce his map of the strata of England and Wales. He saw it published and then rapidly overtaken by the corporate venture of the new Geological Society. To cap it all, he found himself sent to prison. MacCulloch, on the other hand, had the advantage of a Government expense account while mapping Scotland, but became embroiled in financial disputes and personal jealousies, and even threatened to shoot himself. His map was not published until after he had died. In this talk we will look at the people, the

***The Gash Breccias of the Pembroke Syncline***

Leader: Peter Walsh

Meet at 10:00am at the National Trust car park at Lydstep (SS 088 977)

(Car park is accessed down a rutted narrow lane leading south from Lydstep village about 100 m beyond the Lydstep Tavern as one drives towards Pembroke). No toilet there.

We will be concentrating on the Lydstep Point, Whitesheet Rock and Draught Outliers, with passing reference to other aspects of local geology. Depending on numbers attending, their willingness to participate at a cost not less than £10 per head, the availability of the craft and the total price, Peter will investigate the possibility of doing a rib run from Tenby Harbour late in the afternoon into Caldey Sound in order to investigate the spectacular Lydstep Point, Valleyfield Top, St. Margaret's Point and Den Point Outliers and the intraformational Asbian palaeokarst at Proud Giltar, none of which can be accessed easily from the mainland (dependant on weather and numbers)

**Please bring:** ***Safety gear*** - we will be working under rock overhangs and in caves.

**Packed lunches** - we simply have to make best use of tidal conditions (though we know of all the local pubs and tea-shops in an emergency). **Binoculars** - much important detail inaccessible high up in 50 m high cliffs. 1:50K G.S. Pembroke and Linney Head map and 1:25K O.S. South Pembrokeshire Explorer **maps** if you have them.

It is hoped to make these excursions more like undergraduate field tutorials than Cook's tours - we will point our various puzzling features and ask you to explain them. If you attended Peter's talk in Cardiff in October, you will know what to expect! (Of course, it is not necessary to have done so to attend these field meetings) No two gashes are alike, so it is not necessary to attend both days. The only feature common to both

will be a short introductory chat to explain the fundamental problems associated with the Gashes - no-one knows how old they are and there are 101 hypotheses to explain their origins - and what the Gash Breccia Research Group is trying to do to solve them. The trips will terminate either when the leaders get tired, dusk or if Wales are playing in the 6-Nations on either day, whichever earlier. ***SWGA Coordinator for this event is Rhian (07963 732276). If you intend attending either or both of these day, it would be helpful if you let us know.***

***Sunday 5th April******Fishguard***

Leaders: Huw Sheppard.

Meet at 10am at the Harp Inn, Letterston: 31 Haverfordwest Rd Letterston, Haverfordwest, SA62 5UA 01348 840061 (GR 194800 229200)

Safety kit will not be needed, the walking will be, at maximum, moderate, but it is more likely that we will stick to driveable sites. We will try and incorporate a pub lunch either at Newport or Roebush, people can of course bring a lunch as well!

***Sunday 18th May******Aust and Portishead***

Leaders: Peter Hodges and Geraint Owen

Meet at 10:30 at old Severn Ferry pier, Aust(ST 563 886) and/or

Meet at 2:00pm in the parking area by the Windmill Inn, about 1km west of Portishead(ST 458 766)

***Saturday 7th June******The Quaternary of Gower***

Leader: John Hiemstra

Meet at 10:30 at the King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldstone, Gower.



## **Sunday 31st August Saundersfoot – Waterwynch**

Leader: Sid Howells

Meeting details to come.



## **Saturday 27th September The Woolhope Inlier**

Leader: Bob Owens

Meeting details to come.



### **Other diary dates for 2008**



## **Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd June Rockwatch weekend**

The year we will be hosting a Rockwatch weekend. One day will be spent at an opencast pit and then Big Pit National Coal Museum at Blaenafon and the other at Lavernock and the Bendlcks. Anybody who would like to come along and help is extremely welcome. Full details will appear closer to the weekend.



## **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 afternoons from about 2:00-5:00pm. 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 whats happening?



## **Saturday 15th November GA Regional Meeting day**

National Museum of Wales

As part of the Parent bodys 150th anniversary celebrations, the group is hosting a special geological day at the National Museum in Cardiff from 10:00am-

5:00pm. There will be at least two high profile lectures plus display, workshops, a building stones walk and Rockwatch. Full details to follow.

### **Welsh Stone Forum**

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



## **Saturday 29th March Margam and Pyle**

Leaders: Dai Willie, Steve Gray and Ron Austin

Meet at 11:00am in the first car park at Margham Country Park (SS 801 861). Note this is not the car park by the Orangery



## **Saturday 6th September Pontypool and the Shell Grotto**

Leader: John Shipton

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



**The Programmes Secretary is Stephen Howe. Stephen is now away until 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. For enquires about field meetings during this time, please contact Tom Sharpe or Rhian Kendall.**

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 **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebrations. If you have any ideas for speakers or places that you would like to visit or even ideas for a 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. Lynfa also hopes to put on a geology display at the **2008 Eisteddfod** in Cardiff. If you feel that you can help with the preparation or on the day, please don't hesitate to let Lynfa know.

**Wales. Regional Geology Guide by Howells, MF. New Edition from the BGS.** "This guide describes the geological history of Wales, the evolution of its structure, its stratigraphy and the nature of the rocks and processes that have shaped the Welsh landscape. The book is fully illustrated with maps and diagrams which help to reveal the complexities of Welsh geology. The book is aimed at geology students and advanced amateurs as well as professionals who need an overview of the geology of Wales. This guide supersedes the earlier guides for north and south Wales. 230pp". (Extract BGS website) The BGS have kindly offered to sell us the new guide at a reduced price if we order a batch from them. **This book is normally £18 and they are offering it at a discounted price of £13:50 to the SWGA.** Please send your cheques for £13:50, payable to SWGA to Rhian who is coordinating this by the end of March. Copies will be brought to the meetings to save on postage. I can personally tell you that this is a great little book as I already have my copy... I ordered it before I knew of the offer!

### Cork Field Meeting

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, The Cork Geological Society have offered to

lead us on a weekend excursion around Cork, Ireland in summer/autumn 2008. We have already had a good response. If you would like to attend, please let Steve know.



### Other Events

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](http://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](mailto:earth-ce@bris.ac.uk); [www.gly.bris.ac.uk/ce](http://www.gly.bris.ac.uk/ce)).
- Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education from 01792-295786 or [www.swansea.ac.uk/dace](http://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 (Ffowr Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer ([tjp@aber.ac.uk](mailto:tjp@aber.ac.uk))



That's all for now, looking forward to seeing you at the meetings this summer.

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