



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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| President: | Malcolm Shaw | Vice-President: | Geraint Owen |
| Editor: | Rhian Kendall webmaster@swga.org.uk | Programme Secretary: | Stephen Howe Steve.Howe@museumwales.ac.uk |
| Secretary: | Lynda Garfield secretay@swga.org.uk | Treasurer: | Hazel Trenbirth hazel.trenbirth@btinternet.com |
| Membership Secretary: | Mike Gregory 01792- 298510 membership@swga.org.uk 579 Gower Road, Upper Killay, Swansea, SA2 7DR | | |

March 2012

Fifty-Third Session 2011-2012

Welcome to the March newsletter. There's not much space for my usual introductions as it is crammed with lots of events to take us through the summer and into next winter. Thanks to Stephen Howe for all his hard work. I'm very much looking forward to a busy year of geology and meeting up with good friends along the way.



Indoor Meetings 2012

Saturday 17th March: AGM and Presidential Address: Malcolm Shaw: Where Plates Meet: Danger and Delight. Swansea University

steep ascents and descents, but on generally good ground, as well as some walking along a sandy shore.



Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th May

The Vale of Glamorgan

Leader: Tom Sharpe.

This is a joint weekend field meeting with the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group and members are welcome to come either for one or both days. Sights to be visited will include, Penarth, the Bendricks, Southerndown and Ogmore. Full meeting details will appear later or can be obtained later from Tom Sharpe

[\(tom.sharpe@museumwales.ac.uk\)](mailto:(tom.sharpe@museumwales.ac.uk))

Summer Programme 2012

- by Stephen Howe

 **Saturday 21st April**
Llanmadog and Llangennith, Gower
 Leader: John Davies

Meet at 10.00am at the Whiteford Beach Car Park, opposite the church, in Llanmadog, Gower (SS 440 935). Bring a packed lunch.

The excursion will look at the Old Red Sandstone Carboniferous Limestone and Quaternary deposits of the area and will involve a walk of about 4 ½ miles (6km). There will be a few quite



Saturday 16th June

The Southern Malvern Hills

Leader: Paul Olver

Meet at 10.00am at the British Camp Car Park (SO 763 404) where the A449 from Ledbury to Great Malvern crosses the Precambrian ridge. There will be a lunch stop at the Wyche Inn, which does meals, snacks and drinks. Bookings will be taken in advance for lunch closer to the date. Alternatively bring a packed lunch but need to be aware that the pub has no beer garden and opens straight onto the main road. You will also need a hard hat and stout footwear. The Malvern Conservators are likely to be around and they will expect to see us wearing hard hats, especially in Gullet's Quarry.

The excursion will visit a number of sites gradually working our way south along the Malverns to examine the Precambrian, Cambrian and Silurian rocks and their inter-relationships as well as getting some outstanding views (weather permitting!). We will drive between localities and then walk, which will involve some gentle slopes but not mountaineering.



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

This field meeting to the Ffos y Fran site 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) after 4th April 2012. The site operators will give us an introduction to the site works and will then take us down onto the site by Landrover to give us a chance to wander around and look at the

exposed Coal Measures geology. Meeting instructions will be provided when people book. A reserve list will be made in case people drop out before the date.

Please note that strong footwear, a reflective jacket and a hard hat **are essential** for this excursion.



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. It is possible to attend on only one day if members prefer. Numbers are restricted to 30 and places **must be booked in advance** with Sarah Stafford at the Geologist's Association office in London (geol.assoc@btinternet.com). There will be a £10 administration charge to help cover the cost of the leaders' expenses.



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.

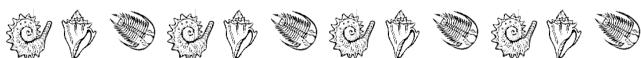
The excursion will involve a walk of several miles which at times may be on uneven ground as well driving to several sites in convoy. The excursion will provide a broad introduction to the geology of the Forest of Dean and then focus on the iron mineralisation with a little about the coal.

 **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).



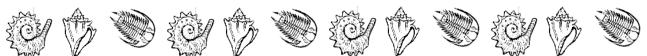
From time to time, for reasons beyond the control of the Group, meetings do unfortunately have to be cancelled. If such a situation has arisen then every attempt will be made to put this information on the web site. Please also see our website (or ask at the field meetings) to see our safety policy)



Advanced notice of Indoor Meetings 2012/13

- **13th October** (Cardiff) tbc

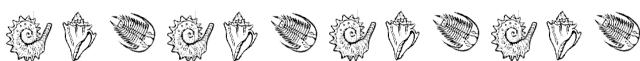
- **17th November** (Swansea) Adam to Douglas: a geohistorical journey through North Wales [Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture] Mike Bassett (NMW)
- **15th December** (Cardiff) Copper Mineralisation [Joint Meeting with the Russell Society] Tom Cotterell (NMW)
- **12th January** (Cardiff) Holiday Geology National Museum
- **26th January** (Swansea) Fossil starfish - evolution and origin of the modern species Andy Gale (Portsmouth)
- **23rd February** (Cardiff) Seismic Faults and Sacred Sanctuaries [Joint Meeting with the Geological Society, South Wales Group] Ian Stewart
- **23rd March** (Swansea) AGM and Geology of Antarctica Tom Sharpe (NMW) Swansea



**Report from the committee,
March 2012**

Our latest meeting, held in February at the Tondu nature centre to the accompaniment of an alarm we had unwittingly set off, was well attended by committee members. We discussed matters under our usual headings: events, exhibitions and displays; publicity, website and promotions (we're still seeking a publicity officer, we need to rethink "publicity" in a changing digital scene); conservation and RIGS (the Group will submit responses to the parent GA following their September conference, we will respond to the Welsh Government's

Green Paper Sustaining a Living Wales); reports from the editor, treasurer (it was agreed to go ahead with standing orders for next year), secretary, membership secretary; programme including the AGM; and Safety, Policy and Procedures (we may relook further at our Safety Code and Policy). I hope this gives a flavour of what we cover; meetings often last until late (fortified by coffee and chocolate biscuits) and there is always a lot to cover to ensure we provide a good programme (thanks to Steve Howe), follow charity and other legalities, and respond to wider geological matters where appropriate (as listed in the annual report at the AGM).



Other News

Recently it's been brought to my attention that there are a few geological magazines that are now available for free from their prospective website. These include:

Earthwise. This is produced by the British Geological Survey and contains articles on the latest science and projects from the survey.

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/newsAndEvents/earthwise/downloadSearch.cfc?method=viewIssues>

Planet Earth is magazine prduced by the Natural Environment Research

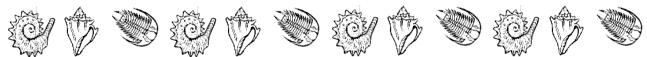


Council and contains articles from all its research institutes which include BGS and BAS

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/planetearth/2012/spring/>

Earth Heritage is aimed at people with an interest in geological conservation

<http://www.earthheritage.org.uk/>



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.
- Welsh Stone Forum
- 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 (Ffowm Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk)
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott. www.ougs.org/severnside



This may well be my last newsletter as I'm about to hand over a new newsletter editor. It only remains for me to say thank you for putting up with my inevitable typos and grammatical mistakes and hope to see you at the forthcoming meetings. Rhian