



March 2013

Fifty-Fourth Session 2012-2013



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Lesley Cherns	John Davies	Tom Sharpe	Nigel McGaw
			Cindy Howells



Saturday 23rd March is our **Annual General Meeting** in Swansea followed by a lecture by **Jessica Kandlbauer of Bristol University** on the 1815 Tambora eruption:

Summer Programme 2013

Organised by Stephen Howe

Details are being finalised for this year's field meeting programme. On page 2 are the events that have been agreed. Full meeting details will appear in due course and on the Summer Programme card that will be issued

Impact on people, environment and climate.

With the current interest in both climate change and the effects of super volcanoes this should be a fascinating talk to end the session.

probably after Easter.

Keep an eye on the website
www.swga.org



Summer Programme

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.

Date	Venue	Leader
Saturday 20th April	Bishopston Valley, Gower	Geraint Owen
Saturday 18 th Sunday & 19 th May	Strumble Head and Abereiddi Bay, Pembrokeshire Due to the travel distance Sid is offering a trip on both days for those who wish to make a weekend of it but members are also welcome to just come for one of the two days.	Sid Howells
Saturday 15th June	Brecon Beacons, Powys	John Davies
Saturday 13th July	Cotswold Water Park (This meeting is a joint meeting with the Bath Geological Society, Bristol Naturalists' Society and West of England GA.)	Neville Hollingsworth
Saturday 24 th August	Freshwater and West Angle, Pembrokeshire	John Nudds
Saturday 21st September	Fforestfawr Geopark	Alan Bowring
Saturday 26th October	Llyn Brianne, Powys	David Schofield

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.

The AGM, 23rd March 2013, will start at 10.30 am with coffee and tea served from 10.00 onwards. The lecture is due to commence at 11.00 am. The venue is Swansea University in the Wallace Building (Department of Geography).



I have been asked to inform our members of this event in Oxford in March

The Oxford Colloquium

The Oxford Colloquium is a one-day event based at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. This exciting event gives you the opportunity to attend six lectures given by eminent speakers from distinguished UK academic and research institutions. The topics are drawn from across the Earth & planetary sciences. This year, despite the Museum being closed to the general public, the Oxford Colloquium will be held on Saturday March 16. The line-up of speakers is:

Professor J. Tellam (University of Birmingham) 'Nano particles in sandstone groundwaters'
Professor S. Conway Morris (University of Cambridge) 'The Cambrian explosion & re-running the tape of life: what really happens?'

Professor P. Burgess (Royal Holloway, University of London) 'Numbers, models and layered rocks: what can we learn from numerical modelling of sedimentary systems?'

Professor M. Siegert (University of Bristol) 'Exploration of sub-glacial Lake Ellsworth, West Antarctica.'

Dr. D. Waters (University of Oxford) 'Building Mount Everest: the inside story.'

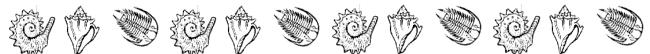
Dr. R. Walker (University of Oxford) 'Earthquakes on an urban world: challenges for the 21st Century.'

In addition there's some hands-on stuff: At lunchtime there will be a series of handling tables and live demonstrations. Professor P. Smith (Oxford) and Professor D. Siveter (Oxford) will be demonstrating specimens from the Sirius Passet and Chengjiang Cambrian lagerstätten. Dr. M Price will also be on hand to show-off the Wager Collection of metamorphic and igneous rock specimens.

You can learn more about the Oxford Colloquium by visiting their website.

<http://oxgg.org.uk/the-oxford-colloquium/contact/>

Tickets are available to purchase in person at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History shop and from the offices of the Geologists' Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. You can also purchase Oxford Colloquium tickets at Oxford Geology Group lectures follow this link for details. You can also find out how to purchase by post by emailing Alison Saunders via events@oxgg.org.uk. Tickets - £15 for the day - must be purchased in advance as they will not be available on the door.



Data Protection Act

The Group keeps computerised and/or paper listings of members' names, contact details, membership, and Gift Aid declarations. These are used only within the SWGA for maintaining the membership, mailings, Gift Aid reclamations, an annual list of members, general administration, and matters relating to the carrying out of the Group's activities (may also include non-members and historical records). Please let the Membership Secretary know if you do not want your details kept on a computer listing, or if you do not wish to be on the annual list of members, or if you want to know the full details of the information the Group keeps about you.



Do you have photos from our earliest days?

Here is a plea from Lynda, our secretary – if you have photos of the Group from 1960's or 1970's would you be willing to share them? If so please let Lynda know: secretary@swga.org.uk or 02920 891588.



RIGS

Members of the South Wales G. A. have for many years been involved in carrying out surveys of geological sites, initially in the Cardiff area and then more recently covering much of South East Wales supporting the British Geological Survey's RIGS project. The completed RIGS survey work has been passed on to the Welsh Government and will be distributed to Local Authorities who will, hopefully, safeguard them via the planning system. Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest, administered by the Countryside Council for Wales, they still won't have statutory protection. Unfortunately this process doesn't allow for the restoration or enhancement of the very many sadly neglected geological sites.

In order to remedy this situation the first step has been taken to set up a RIGS Group, covering South East Wales, involving many South Wales G. A. members along with representatives of other relevant and interested organisations and other keen

supporters. This provides a marvellous opportunity for more supporters to get involved with this worthwhile project which will protect and safeguard our important geological heritage. The RIGS Group does have a wider remit with an important role to play as an educational resource, providing interpretative facilities and involving the wider public. A further meeting has been convened for **Tuesday evening, 16 April at 7.00 pm at the Garwnant Forestry Centre**, just north of Merthyr Tydfil, to consider the next stage in determining the future direction of this exciting new project. So if you have an interest in protecting our geological heritage and want to take part in it, please come along and support the project. You will be most welcome. To succeed, the project requires plenty of support from people who can offer a wide range of different skills. If you require any further information please contact **Nigel McGaw on 01656 654439 or e-mail at 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 (Ffowm Cerrig Cymru) details from Tim Palmer. 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

- West Wales Geology Society
www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk

Membership

As we are approaching the AGM, the papers for which are either included with this mailing (if you receive a paper version) or are being sent out at the same time, here is a reminder that we hand out a list of paid up members at the AGM. So if you wish to be included on this list and have not yet paid, please send your subs direct to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible.