

May 2016



Fifty-eighth session

President	John Davies sion_cwm_hir@hotmail.com	Vice-President	Lesley Cherns cherns@cardiff.ac.uk
Secretary	Janet Hiscott secretary@swga.org.uk	Programme Secretary	Stephen Howe Steve.Howe@talktalk.net
Membership Secretary	Caroline Davies 72 Heritage Park, St Mellons, Cardiff. CF3 0DQ membership@swga.org.uk 07850 556947	Treasurer	Hazel Trenbirth hazel.trenbirth@btinternet.com
		Publicity	Marnix Roels marnixroels@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Janet Hiscott newsletter@swga.org.uk	Webmaster	Rhian Kendall webmaster@swga.org.uk
Ex-Officio Vice President	Rhian Kendall webmaster@swga.org.uk	Editor	Rhian Kendall webmaster@swga.org.uk
Other members of the committee: Tom Sharpe, Nigel McGaw, Cindy Howells, Jim Evans, Roger Liggins, Geraint Owen			



Safety Policy

Although full Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to each field meeting members are reminded that they attend field excursions at their own risk. They are expected to take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and other participants and to behave in a responsible manner at all times. The Group has a Safety Policy and Safety Fieldwork Code that all participants should have read prior to attending a meeting. Copies can be found on the Group's web site and a resume can be found on the reverse of the Summer Field Meeting card.



SUMMER FIELD MEETING PROGRAMME 2016 - Stephen Howe

Saturday 25th June: Craig-y-Nos and Penwyllt

Leader: Gareth George

Meet at 9.30am at the National Nature Reserve car park at Penwyllt (SN 856 156), which is adjacent to the South Wales Caving Club houses.

The meeting will begin with a brief description of the units of the local succession, the new BGS stratigraphic terms, the problems of interpreting the mode of deposition of the Twrch Sandstone (Basal Grit) and the importance of simple Sequence Stratigraphy concepts and sea-level changes. We will then examine two local Carboniferous Limestone quarries that contain typical fossil assemblages, reddened paleosol horizons and the disconformable contact with the Twrch Sandstone and then the excellent exposures of the Twrch Sandstone, the karst geomorphology and industrial archaeology.

A packed lunch will be taken overlooking Craig-y-Nos / Cribarth or at the Ancient Britain pub if the weather is bad. After lunch we will look at the top of the Twrch Sandstone and the base of the Bishopston Mudstone at small waterfalls on the River Tawe, just north of Ynyswen, where there is also a very good exposure of the Twelve-foot Sandstone in a vertical cliff face.

We will then move on to the Henrhyd Falls to examine the top of the Namurian / Base Westphalian, where the transgressive Subcrenatum Sandstone is erosive on a paleosol, and the overlying Subcrenatum Marine Band, which is truncated by the Farewell Rock and is interpreted as a regionally developed incised valley fill.

Gareth will have his field guide and sedimentology books for sale at a good discount price!

Saturday 9th July: Castlemartin West, Pembrokeshire

Leader: Sid Howells

Due to Ministry of Defence restrictions this excursion has to be limited to 15 people and a minimum age restriction of 18. It will be an early 9.30am start due to MoD signing-in procedures. Booking is essential

and I will send the meeting instructions out to those booked on to the excursion closer to the date. No dogs are allowed. Once we have filled the 15 places I will create an overflow list in case any of those booked later find that they are unable to attend. At the time of writing there are 3 vacant places so if you would like to attend please let me know quickly.

We will be walking into Range West, where there is usually no public access, and the total walking distance will depend on the wishes of the group as people cannot be sent back on their own as it's 'forbidden land'. We will be examining the Carboniferous Limestone that is spectacularly exposed along this stretch of the Pembrokeshire coast, including the rich fossil fauna and structure (the folds and faults) as well as the spectacular coastal scenery.

Sunday 21st August: The history of sedimentation in the Ross-on-Wye Old Red Sandstone Basin - a new palaeogeography

Leader: John Davies

Meet at 10.30 in the riverside car park at Ross-on-Wye (SO 593 239). On this excursion we will examine the sedimentary history of the Cosheston Sub-group of the Herefordshire area and an example of one of the sub-basins of the Anglo-Welsh Old Red Sandstone province. This excursion will be by car with only a small amount of walking. Please note that many of the exposures to be examined are in sunken lanes while others are on busy road sections. There will be opportunities for refreshment stops so there will not be any need to bring packed lunches if you prefer.

Sunday 25th September: The Cotswold Escarpment

Leader: Dave Green

Meet at 10 am at the car park on the eastern side of the Sharpness – Gloucester canal, on the outskirts of the village of Frampton on Severn, which is on the northern side of the road by the old

chocolate factory buildings (SO 747 084). The car park is right by the canal, with the turn in by the bridge operator's hut. It is a small car park, so efficient parking will be required! After meeting here we will transfer to a smaller number of vehicles to park on the roadside at Fretherne Church

(SO 734 092) where we will examine the Blue Lias (lower Jurassic) of Hock Cliff.

From Fretherne there are three possibilities for continuing the transect: (1) North Nibley and Wotton Hill in the south; (2) Cam, Dursley and Nymphsfield in the middle, or (3) Stonehouse, Stroud and Selsley Common in the north. Which of these we visit will be dependent upon access and the current state of exposures at the time, but no matter which we will cover the Middle and Upper Lias, the Inferior Oolite, and Fullers Earth, whose limestone members form the crest of the Cotswold escarpment in this area.

Saturday 8th October: The Sutton Formation (marginal Lias) of the Ogmore-by-Sea and Southerndown area

Leader: **Peter Hodges**

The Ogmore –by-Sea area is represented by an island of Dinantian limestone, which from the early Jurassic progressively became drowned by rising marine waters. This drowning event was made up of a series of marine transgressions followed by still stands, which carved out several wave cut platforms in the Dinantian limestones. The Sutton Formation (marginal Lias facies), characterised by beds of Sutton Stone and Southerndown Bed lithologies, represents the near-shore deposits surrounding this island. The Sutton Formation is diachronous and local exposures indicate an age range from the top of the planorbis chronozone to the top of the angulata chronozone. On the north side of this island near Ewenny the Sutton Formation extends up to the semicostatum chronozone.

Meet at 10.30 am at the river mouth car park at Ogmore by Sea (SS 862 754). The morning will be spent examining localities in the Ogmore/Sutton/Pant y Slade area. There will then be a break for lunch at the Three Golden Cups pub at Southerndown where those who wish to may obtain lunch. We will then meet at the car park at Southerndown and spend the afternoon examining localities in Dunraven Bay.



Indoor Meetings 2016-17

The programme for the next indoor session is in the process of being put together. The dates are now agreed and are as follows:

- Saturday 29th October (Cardiff);
- Saturday 19th November (Swansea): Kevin Evans (Missouri)
- Saturday 10th December (Cardiff)
- Saturday 7th January 2017: *Holiday Geology* (Cardiff)
- Saturday 21st January (Swansea)
- Saturday 18th February (Cardiff): *DAB Memorial Lecture*: John Cope
- Saturday 18th March (Swansea): *AGM*



Other Events:

We are seeking volunteers to help out with the following two events that the Group has been invited to participate in. As well as being fun, both

events give the Group the opportunity to spread the geological message (and hopefully gain some new members) to people that would not normally know of us or have ever participated in a

geological activity before. We would be extremely grateful for any assistance with either of the events below, no matter how short or long that you are able to offer. If you are able to help could you please contact the Programme Secretary.

Saturday 23rd July: Tredegar House, Newport

We have been invited by the National Trust to undertake our Fossil Bash as part of their Community Programme activities. The event runs from 10.00am - 4.00pm and is under cover in the grounds of the house. In the morning the event will

be for the Trusts' children's club but after midday it will be open to the public.

Saturday 20th August: Out of the Woods Festival, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

Once again we have been invited by Cardiff Parks Department to take our Fossil Bash to this popular annual event in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. The event runs from 10.00am - 4.00pm and we will have a stand in a marquee as well as an outside activity area. Hopefully, the weather will be better than last year!



From the committee

Help wanted

We are seeking a volunteer to organise somewhere to have lunch at the Cardiff meetings. The task involves booking space for a dozen or so people at a convenient hostelry or similar establishment fairly close to the university for the three meetings a year that we hold in Cardiff. If anybody is willing to undertake this task could they please contact the Secretary.

From Caroline, the Membership Secretary

Just a timely reminder for those of you that pay your subscription annually by cheque, that this is due on 1st September. If you would prefer to pay by standing order you can download the form from the website - it forms part of the membership

form. Please send it on to me as we need to add a reference in order to distinguish all those popular Welsh surnames.

Sometimes we need to contact members regarding changes to the programme. If you get your newsletter and other documents by post it would be useful to have an e-mail address if you have one or if not a current mobile number so that we can send you a text message. Please e-mail or text me as appropriate so that I can update our records.

If you got this Newsletter by e-mail no action is required. If you have not been receiving regular e-mails from Steve Howe he asks if you could let him know at steve.howe@talk.talk.net

Caroline



S. E. Wales RIGS Group

At their last meeting in April future activities were discussed including their site at Ruperra, where another successful day's work recently took place. Further general meetings, field trips and work days will be held over the summer and include undertaking a survey of potential RIGS sites for Swansea City Council. If you have an interest in preserving our geological heritage and would like to get involved with our activities please contact Nigel Mc Gaw at nimar@nmcgaw.freemove.co.uk or tel 01656 654439

