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October 2009

Fiftieth Session 2008-2009

Its that time of year again... We've had a great summer of field meetings, the less said about the weather the better I think and we are about to embark on our indoor season. Stephen Howe has organised a fantastic line up of lectures to mark our 50th Anniversary including a lecture that harks back to the science of geology as it was when the group was formed and keynote speaker to celebrate the day its self followed by a dinner. It's also time to renew or subs. I think that you'll agree that with a line up like this it's worth every penny! See you there... Rhian



Indoor Meetings 2009



Saturday 17th October (Swansea)

Ted Nield (Editor Geoscientist, Geological Society)

Supercontinent Disunited: why did America reject Wegener's big idea?



Saturday 14th November (Cardiff)

Richard Scrivener (Honorary Research Associate, British Geological Survey)

Permian and Triassic mineralisation in the rocks of South-west England



Saturday 12th December (Swansea)

John Cope (National Museum of Wales)

Reflections on 50 years of geological change.

2010



Saturday 9th January (Cardiff, National Museum of Wales)

Holiday Geology



Saturday 23rd January (Cardiff)

Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth)
How Earth made Us



Saturday 20th February (Swansea)

Mark Jones (University College London)

The New Zealand Tuatara, its fossil relatives and the Welsh Dragon



Saturday 13th March (Cardiff) [10.30am start]

AGM and Presidential Address

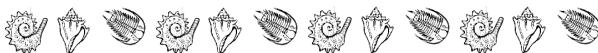
Nigel McGaw

Geoconservation: serious fun!

The Cardiff meetings take place in the

Department of Earth Sciences, the Main Building, Cardiff University and the Swansea meetings in the Wallace Building (Department of Geography), Swansea University. The lectures begin at 11.00am with tea and coffee beforehand from about 10.15am. After the meetings the speaker is taken to lunch at a local hostelry to which all members are welcome to attend. Please note that the AGM begins at 10.30am with tea and coffee beforehand from 10.00am.

This session's *Holiday Geology* meeting will take place in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Following the pattern of previous years the meeting will consist of morning and afternoon sessions, beginning at 11.00am and finishing by 4.00pm. A buffet lunch will be provided but, due to increasing costs, a 'donation' of £2/head would be appreciated.



Field Meetings 2009

Saturday 7th November
Cwm Gwrelech and Selar Opencast,
Neath Valley
Leader: Ben Evans (BIGC)

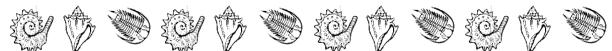
PLEASE NOTE that, due to the Welsh Rally, the date of the Cwm Gwrelech / Selar Opencast meeting has been changed from that advertised on the Summer Programme card.

Meet at 10.30am at Cwm Gwrelech, near Pont Walby, Pontneddfechan (SN 891 065). Bring a packed lunch.

The morning will be spent examining the Coal Measures sequence in Cwm Gwrelech and the afternoon that in the Selar Opencast mine. The underfoot conditions may be slippery and muddy especially after heavy rain.



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.



50th Anniversary Lecture and Dinner

We are fortunate that in our 50th Anniversary year our January meeting falls on exactly the same day that the Group's first ever lecture took place in 1960 - Saturday 23rd January. To celebrate the occasion we are very fortunate to have got Prof Iain Stewart from the University of Plymouth and TV fame to come and talk to us about his new television series, *How Earth Made Us*. On such an auspicious occasion your committee felt that we should mark the event in a special way and so we are proposing to have a special celebratory lunch after the talk, probably at the Park Plaza hotel in Cardiff city centre. Full details will appear in the next *Newsletter* but the idea would be to keep the cost to about £15/head, so please put this date in your dairies.

Holiday Geology

As is usual we will be looking for volunteers to give short (10 minute) talks at this year's *Holiday Geology* meeting in January at the national Museum of Wales. As in previous years we will be looking for about 4 - 5 talks each side of lunch and would ask that each talk uses a maximum of about 20 images. Both a 35mm slide projector and digital projector will be available on the day but in order to make the meeting run technically smoothly it would be useful to have copies of each talk in advance so that we can pre-load the digital images on to the computer.

I am sure that there are many of you itching to show us where you have been and what you have seen during the year both near

and far so could all volunteers please let the Programme Secretary know before December the title of their talk and send a copy of their images in advance of the meeting as well please.

Pembrokeshire Weekend 2010

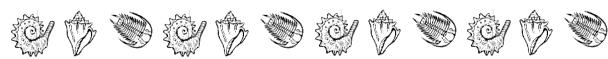
Following on from Brian Williams' superb talk on the Old Red Sandstone last session, he has agreed to run a weekend field meeting to Pembrokeshire over the weekend of Saturday 17th/Sunday 18th April 2010. Based at Tenby the weekend will concentrate on the theme of *New perspectives on the Old Red Sandstone of South Pembrokeshire*. As usual with such an excursion members will be able to attend just one of the days if they can not make the full weekend.

Brian is proposing to stay at the hotel he has used over many years of working in Pembrokeshire – the Fourcroft Hotel, Tenby - that offers B&B for about £45/night. Brian is willing to make a block booking on our behalf but needs to know numbers in order to do so. Could any member wishing to attend the weekend excursion and who is interested in staying at the Fourcroft Hotel please let the Programme Secretary know as soon as possible please.

South Wales RIGS Project

The South Wales RIGS project is well underway and we are always looking for volunteers to help. Our literature searches have revealed a large number of potentially interesting sites across the region and we need help to see if they still exist so that we can recommend the very best to become RIGS.

Rhian will be organising a series of field days to investigate some of the many sites that have been identified. These will be held on: **24th Oct, 28th Nov and the 19th Dec.** Please get in touch if you would like to come along. If you would like to get involved with data searches, field work, or to tell us about sites that you think should be included, please get in touch. Rhian. Email: rhnd1@bgs.ac.uk Tel: 2920 521962



Other Geological Organisations

Severnside Branch of the Open University Geological Society

The Severnside Branch of the Open University is holding a day of lectures on Sunday, 6th December, held in the Icon Suite, Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Museum opens at 10 am and we begin asap after that. Tea and coffee available. Booking essential.

GA members welcome. Please contact us to let us know you are coming: either Janet Hiscott (01633 781557) janethiscott@netscape.net or Jan Ashton Jones (01432 870827) jashtonjon@aol.com

Speakers:

Lorriane Field: 'A PhD in progress', The magmatic evolution of Dabbahu Volcano, Afar, Ethiopia;

Louise Thomas: The Uranium Series
Cath Jex: Dating Speleotherms and investigating past climates

Clare Warren: Geo-speedometry: Dating the Formation and Exhumation of High Pressure Rocks

Lunch at Inncognitos.

The group is also holding a Symposium which will be held in Swansea University 9 - 11th July 2010. Theme: Cutting edge research from Welsh Universities. Full lecture programme and field trips. Cost to be determined. Keep an eye on website for more details http://ougs.org/society_events
Thanks. Janet

Affordable Science

We have recently been contacted by a company which supplies geological equipment based in Caerphilly, called

Affordable Science and Astronomy. Their web address is: www.affordablescience.com. Their prices are very reasonable, including offering deals for sets of geological kit. Please email them directly for more information and don't forget to mention the SWGA.

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
- Bristol University Continuing Education are no longer running geological classes. Some of the lecturers are continuing to run classes independently. Their contact details can be found on the following webpage www.gly.bris.ac.uk/ce). One of the lecturers; David Green has contacted us to ask that we publicise his classes to our membership. You can find more information at www.geostudies.co.uk.
- Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education from 01792-295786 or 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 (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru) from Tim Palmer (tjp@aber.ac.uk)
- Open University Geological Society Contact: Janet Hiscott. www.ougs.org/severnside
- www.southwalesgeology.blogspot.com for geology events in South Wales
- The **Cardiff Naturalists' Society** is a group based which holds lectures and field trips on the general theme of Natural History. This year, there are two lectures that may be of interest to our members: On the 20th October, Alan Channing from Cardiff University will be giving a talk about Hot Spring Ecosystems Through Time.

Another talk on the 2nd of November, Prof Roger Falconer will be speaking about the Severn Barrage and other Options and Opportunities.

GA members are welcome and they are held in lecture theatre D 106 on the Llandaff Campus UWIC at 7:30.



Further to our appeal in the last newsletter, the committee has sent a request for us all to look back through our photographic archives for images of our friends from the GA going back over the years. If you have anything that you think should be added to our archives, please get in touch with myself or Tom Sharpe (Tom.Sharpe@museumwales.ac.uk). We can arrange to copy or scan material and return it if necessary. Please don't forget to send your renewals to Mike Gregory and if you are a tax payer, we would be very grateful if you could sign the gift aid forms as we can then claim the tax back!

Best Wishes. Rhian Kendall 07963 732276; Rhian@carreg.org.uk