



Registered Charity Number 1054303

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September 2011

Fifty-Second Session 2011-2012

I can hardly believe that the summer is yet again drawing to end. We have had such a busy summer with a fantastic range of field meetings. I'm writing this, freshly back from a wonderful weekend in Pembrokeshire, led by Sid Howells. I certainly won't forget that boat trip around the Island of Ramsey for a very long time – soaked in sunshine (and not a small amount of water!) and fantastic geology. Very tiring but very worth it! We still have couple more field meetings and an interesting line up of lectures to look forward to... See you there!



Outdoor Meetings 2011



Saturday 17th September
Vallis Vale and Tedbury Camp,
Mendips

Leader: Alan Holliday from the Dorset GA and this will be a great day out to one of the most famous geological sites in this part of the country.

Meet at 11.00am at the Sainsbury Supermarket Car Park, Frome (ST 768 464) which is on the road in from Nunney and Shepton Mallet. There is a café and toilets available at this site. From here the excursion will move on to Tedbury Camp and Vallis Vale where we will examine the local Carboniferous Limestone and Triassic deposits plus the spectacular unconformity between the Carboniferous Limestone and Inferior Oolite. Bring a packed lunch. For an appetizer for Tedbury camp look at the following web site http://www.estauk.net/tedbury_camp_quarry.html



Saturday 15th October
Pendine –Amroth coastal section

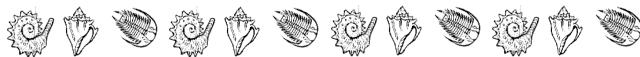
Leader: Geraint Owen is our leader for the

last excursion of the season, our President elect. Those of you with long memories may recall that we last did this excursion in April 1991. It is a fascinating length of coast with some superb geology and it will be interesting to see how its geological interpretation has changed over the last 20 years.

Meet at 10.00am at the car park in Pendine village (SN 235 080). The excursion will involve a walk of about 5 miles along the coast examining the superb costal sections through the Namurian and early Westphalian successions. They illustrate a range of depositional environments which, since our last visit have been reinterpreted in terms of sequence stratigraphy.

This is a strenuous walk across the beach and foreshore, some of which is rocky and slippery, as well along stretches of the coastal path which can be muddy and steep. The route is also tide dependent and which may necessitate shortening the route which will involve longer walks along the undulating coast path. A packed lunch is essential. Please also bring a hard hat. Some spares will be available for those without one.

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.



Winter Programme 2011-12

The winter programme for the next session is now almost complete. Once again the lectures will be covering a range of topics so it is hoped that you will all find something of interest. Due to the Geofest festival in October there will be no separate lecture that month as there will be two lectures during Geofest instead.

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

2011

 Saturday 22nd/Sunday 23rd October: Geofest; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

 Saturday 19th November: Brian Williams (Aberdeen): Triassic Basins, North Atlantic Borderlands: Understanding the break-up of Pangea in the search for oil and gas: Cardiff University

 Saturday 17th December: The 1st Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture. Michael Bassett (National Museum of Wales). Adam to Douglas: a geo-historical journey through North Wales. Swansea University

2012



Saturday 14th January: Holiday Geology National Museum of Wales, Cardiff



Saturday 28th January: Jonathan Lee (BGS) Cool Britannia: From Milankopvitch wobbles to Ice Ages. Swansea University



Saturday 18th February: [Joint Meeting with the geological Society, South Wales Group] Alex Maltman (): Wine, whisky and beer: the role of geology. Cardiff University



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

Geofest

Once again this year we are undertaking another weekend's festival of geology aimed at getting the general public interested in the subject. This will take place at various locations within the National Museum of Wales on both Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am until 4.00pm both days. As last time there will be a range of geological activities, displays, demonstrations and behind-the-scenes tours. On the Saturday there will also be two talks in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre. The afternoon talk will be about vertebrate palaeontology by Dave Martill from Portsmouth University while I am still awaiting confirmation of the morning talk lecturer and title.

The SWGA will be having a stall and Rockwatch, the parent GA, the Kent GA, CCW, BGS (Wales), OUGS and many others will be taking part. We will need volunteers to help with manning the SWGA stand and helping out with other activities both days. Any offer of help will be gratefully accepted even if you can only offer an hour or so on one day. Could you send any offers of help to Stephen Howe at the National Museum by the end of September please.

Holiday Geology

Once again we will be holding our annual Holiday Geology meeting at the National Museum of Wales, courtesy of the Department of Geology. A small buffet lunch will be provided and the aim will be to have a maximum of eight short talks (maximum 15 mins), four before lunch and four in the afternoon. Would anybody who is willing to give a short talk please let Stephen Howe know before Christmas.



News from the committee

– by Lynda Garfield

The Group will be represented at the forthcoming "Geoconservation for Science and Society: An agenda for the 21st century" conference in Worcester on 9 and 10 September. Rhian Kendall is taking along the Group's poster on RIGS for display at the event.

The Group was delighted to support the event on 26 May held at St Fagan's National History Museum "Wales in Miniature: A conference in memory of Douglas A Bassett". The conference reflected the numerous interests of Doug Bassett, our founder Chairman, three of our members giving talks (Mike Bassett on the fossils of the Hell's Mouth Grit, Bob Owens on Astronomy and Tom Sharpe on geological maps). A number of our members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the event. The Group contributed £85 towards the costs of the day.

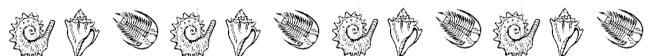
Much of our last committee meeting on 16 May was taken up with the programme and other events over the summer. The summer programme was by that time virtually all sorted, so it was ideas for the winter programme that we concentrated on (although Steve Howe had already most efficiently got quite a lot organised by then). We also looked again at our Safety Policy and Procedures – there was concern about the level of first aid provision on walks, other

points were also raised. The committee is working on these and will be deliberating further at our September meeting.

We discussed the provision of Standing Orders for membership payments, intending to start for this September's renewals.

The President Malcolm Shaw has updated our arrangements for Gift Aid – new forms called "Charities Variations" were signed by several people. To give you a flavour, for the purposes of Gift Aid, Hazel Trenbirth is now our "authorised officer", Malcolm Shaw is our first "responsible person", Lynda Garfield is our second "responsible person", Mike Gregory is our third "responsible person", and Steve Howe is our fourth "responsible person".

And yet again, there is a plea for anyone interested in helping on the committee, especially with publicity, to let us know. You will be most welcome!



Other Organisations Events



Maisemore 30 October 2011 (Sunday)

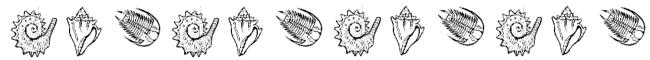
The Russell Society Wales and West and the Cheltenham Mineral and Geology Society will be holding an all day social/workshop at Maisemore Village Hall, Maisemore (not far north of Gloucester) on Sunday 30 October 2011.

It will start at 9.30am and finish around 4.30pm. Tea and coffee available all day, food will be provided. There will be mineralogical and geological displays, talks on fluorescent minerals, silver in lead, and exciting new finds of anglesite from Anglesey. It will also be celebrating 25 years of the Russell Society Wales and West branch.

All are welcome to come along, all that is asked is that you let the organisers know if you are coming. Contact Tom Cotterell at NMW (tom.cotterell@museumwales.ac.uk; 02920 573361) or Marashean Parker (01452 618015) or Dave Wellings (01446 700414).

Tom Sharpe is running a course for Cardiff University Centre for Lifelong Learning:

Field geology: Making a geological map
Tuesday 4 October and 29 November 7-9pm
Centre for Lifelong Learning
Sunday 9 October 10am-4pm Rudry area
Saturday 29 October, 12 and 26 November
10am-4pm Rudry area
http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn/choices/fact_sheet.php?courseID=1230



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.
- 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
- Rhian has updated the SWGA website, and very good it looks.

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.



A last few things to tell you about with my editors hat on. I have given our website a revamp. Our web address is www.swga.org.uk. I hope that you like it. I have also created a "Facebook" page for our group on which members can share photos and stories about the group. If you use facebook, just search for South Wales Geologists Association and you should be able to find it. If not and you want to get involved, email me and I'll try and help. I have also set up a blog (<http://southwalesgeology.blogspot.com/>) for geological events in South Wales. If you have any events that you would like me to add, again, please email me or give me a call. Both Blog and Facebook pages have links from our website.

A quick note from our membership secretary – please don't forget your subs which are due in September. One last item; I am occasionally asked about sharing lifts to field meetings and lectures. If you think that you would like to lift share, please contact me and I'll try and put people in touch with each other.

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