



September 2012

Fifty-Fourth Session 2012-2013

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Other members:

Lesley Cherns	John Davies	Cindy Howells	Nigel McGaw	Gareth Owen	Tom Sharpe
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Brian Williams Books/Reprints and Journals

A long standing member of the Group, Prof. Brian Williams, has recently donated a large collection of his books, reprints and journals to help raise funds for the Group. These are currently in temporary short term storage at the National Museum's National Collections Centre (NCC) in Nantgarw.

We will be holding an 'open day' on **Tuesday 18th September** from 10.00am – 4.00pm at the NCC for anybody to come along, look at what is available, make a donation to the

Group for the items that they want and to take them away.

The Centre is located in Heol Crochendy on the Nantgarw Trading Estate (opposite Peacocks' distribution centre). There is parking in front of the building. On arriving go to the main entrance and reception and Cindy Howells or myself will come and sign you in.

We have sent Brian a heartfelt 'Thank you' on behalf of the Group for his kind gift and look forward to seeing him in person at a future meeting.
Stephen



Recent excursions and events

We hosted a very successful Rockwatch weekend at the end of June when we visited a number of sites around Penderyn, Porth yr Ogof and Heol Senni. Due to the weather and the high river levels the planned itinerary had to be changed at the last minute but still allowed the hardy to try the path behind Scwd yr Eira waterfall and they didn't seem to mind



getting soaked!

The excursion to Ffos y Fran opencast was fully booked and took part on a warm, relatively sunny day. We were warmly welcomed by our guide, Liz Dunning, and after a cup of coffee and introductory lecture to the site were taken by 'prison van' down into the workings where we were allowed to wander around collecting and admiring the geology.

The Coal Measures rocks exposed on the tips were extremely rich in fossil plants and some beautiful specimens were found along with some interesting minerals, including 'Merthyr Diamonds'.

In August we joined the parent GA for a weekend field meeting to central Wales led by Jerry Davies and Dick Waters. Four SWGA members joined the group on the Saturday and 2 on the Sunday. It was an excellent excursion and the parent GA were extremely grateful for our involvement in setting the meeting up. Jerry Davies has since offered to lead a one day excursion to the Llandovery

area so watch out for next year's programme as this will be something not to miss.

On August 19th the Group took part in the annual *Out of the Woods Festival* in Bute Park, Cardiff. Once again we undertook a fossil bash using Coal Measures rock donated to us by Miller Argent from Ffos y Fran. Over 800 people visited the show and we were the busiest stand once again, being kept busy all day. This was a great publicity opportunity for us that may, hopefully, result in some new members. Thanks to all those who volunteered their help during the day.

Stephen



Events Programme Organised by Stephen Howe

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.

Although we generally do not have a booking system for field meetings I am often asked by trip leaders how many people are likely to come in order that they can prepare enough hand outs and work out car parking options etc. Often my guesswork has not been too far off reality but it would be helpful if people could give me an indication in advance if they are likely to attend. Also, 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 I 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 me know your email address. However, from now on, I will be able to be contacted on the actual day of the meeting on 07713684090 if you are in any doubt, get lost finding the meeting place or have said you are coming and then can't make it.

 **Autumn 2012 Field trips**
We have had a well supported field meeting programme this year and, despite having had the wettest summer for 100 years, have not suffered too badly weather-wise apart from the trip to the Malverns, but even there it did dry up later! After a wet summer we often get a good autumn so hopefully the sun will shine on us for the last two field meetings for this year, which are to the Forest of Dean with Tom Cotterell on **Saturday 15th September** and to Amroth with Geraint Owen on **Saturday 20th October**. Full meeting details below. They

can also be found on the Summer Programme Card and on the web site.



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. It 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 6th 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).

Winter Lecture Programme 2012/13

Please note that due to a whole plethora of various meetings in October the winter programme begins much earlier than usual this year on **Saturday 6th October**. Unless otherwise stated, all lectures start at 11.00 with coffee and tea served from 10.30. (The main exceptions are the AGM and Holiday Geology). The Swansea University venue is the Wallace Building (Department of Geography); the Cardiff University venue is the Wallace Lecture Theatre in the Main Building, Cardiff University.

Date	Title	Speaker	Venue
Saturday 6 th October	<i>Henry de la Beche and the first Sea Dragons</i>	Tom Sharpe (National Museum Wales)	Cardiff
Saturday 17 th November	<i>Adam to Douglas: a geohistorical journey through North Wales</i> [Douglas Bassett Memorial Lecture]	Prof Mike Bassett (National Museum Wales)	Swansea
Saturday 15 th December	<i>The Geology and Mineralogy of the Historic Copper Mines of Wales</i> [Joint Meeting with the Russell Society]	Tom Cotterell (National Museum Wales)	Cardiff
2013			
Saturday 12 th January	<i>Holiday Geology</i>	See below	National Museum Cardiff
Saturday 26 th January	<i>Fossil starfish - evolution and origin of the modern species</i>	Andy Gale (Portsmouth University)	Swansea
Saturday 23 rd February	<i>Seismic Faults and Sacred Sanctuaries</i> [Joint Meeting with the Geological Society, South Wales Group]	Iain Stewart (Plymouth University)	National Museum Cardiff
Saturday 23 rd March	AGM – (10.30 start) <i>The 1815 Tambora eruption: Impact on people, environment and climate</i>	Jessica Kandlbauer (Bristol University)	Swansea

Holiday Geology

The annual Holiday Geology meeting will take place in the National Museum Cardiff on Saturday 12th January 2013 from 11.00am – 4.00pm with the usual mix of short talks, displays and sales. A buffet lunch will be provided at a cost of £3.00/head and it is **essential** that people book a place at the meeting with Stephen Howe by **21st December** so that the correct amount of food can be ordered. The meeting is also dependent upon you the membership offering short talks. From past experience you will know that local areas are just as fascinating as the more exotic far flung places that many of you manage to visit so the excuse that you have not been anywhere interesting does not hold water!

Again, could all those volunteering to talk please let Stephen Howe know by **21st December** please so that I can prepare the programme for the day.

Other Events of interest

Saturday/Sunday 13th & 14th October

- Rivers through Time

The parent body of GA is organising a conference in Exeter in conjunction with the Devonshire Association's 150th Anniversary. The weekend event features lectures, posters and a field excursion.

Further details from Sarah Stafford
geol.assoc@btinternet.com



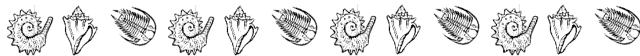
Membership subscriptions

 Did you remember to renew your membership? And did you complete a standing Order form so that you won't need to be reminded ever again? If you forgot, it's not too late. The forms are about to go on the website or Membership Mike or Treasurer Hazel can send them to you. Just give them a ring or send them an email.

Remember to let Mike (membership secretary) know if you change your home address or your email so that we can stay in touch with you.

Publicity and staying in touch

In this digital age, the Committee are seeking the best way to communicate with the public and with our members, to encourage new members and increase attendance at our events. We have co-opted Marnix Roels to help us with this. He is putting a description of the Group onto Wikipedia and he is also maintaining a Facebook page for us. Please have a look at this and join in. To create an account on Facebook, all you need is to log on and enter your email and a provide a password. You don't need to divulge anything else on-line, and certainly not in order to join the SWGA facebook group.



Saturday 10th/11th November: GA

Festival of Geology, London

The GA Festival of Geology will take place at University College London on Saturday 10th November with field trips for those who wish to stay over on Sunday 11th. The Group will be having a display/sales stall once again and anybody interested going to help man this should contact the Secretary, Lynda Garfield.



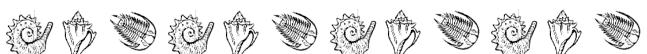
Study Courses

Cardiff

Cardiff University Centre for Lifelong Learning: www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn. Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning are running 2 geology courses this Autumn. One tutor is Tom Sharpe and the other is Nick Chidlaw. You can find details on the website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn

Swansea

Swansea University, Department of Adult Continuing Education. Tel: 01792-295786 www.swansea.ac.uk/dace



Other Geological Organisations

There are a number of other organisations offering geological talks and trips. These include:

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch, details of activities from Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Ffowr 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 www.ougs.org/severnside