

September 2015



Fifty-seventh session



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SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS

Stephen Howe - Programme Secretary

Saturday 10th October: Vaynor, Penderyn and Ystradfellte

Leader: John Davies

The last field meeting of the year is a joint meeting with the Welsh Stone Forum that was postponed from last year. On it we will be examining the various building stones to be found in

these three localities along the north crop of the coalfield and their sources.

Meet at 11.00am at Vaynor Church, Vaynor, north of Merthyr Tydfil (SO 049 103). Bring a packed lunch. We will be driving between sites.



INDOOR MEETINGS 2015-2016

This year's indoor programme is as follows:

2015

Saturday 17th October: *British Dinosaurs: A story untold.* Dean Lomax (Manchester). (**Cardiff**)

Saturday 21st November: *Underlands - a journey through Britain's Lost Landscape.* Ted Nield (Geological Society). (**Swansea**).

Saturday 12th December: *Mr Smith's remarkable maps..* Tom Sharpe (Cardiff). (**Cardiff**)

2016

Saturday 9th January: *Holiday Geology.* (**National Museum Cardiff**) 11.00am - 4.00pm

Saturday 23rd January: The T.R.Owen Memorial Lecture: *Forensic*

Microplaeontology. Haydon Bailey (President of the GA). (**Swansea**).

Wednesday 17th February: *Lavas that Burrow: understanding invasive lava flows.* Ian Skilling (South Wales).

(**Cardiff**). *Please note that this is an extra joint meeting with the Geological Society South Wales Group and begins at 6.00pm in Room LT 1.4. Wine and cheese are available from 5.30pm.

Saturday 23rd February: *Minerals and Gems of the Cairngorm.* Roy Starkey (Birmingham). **Cardiff**

Saturday 19th March: AGM and Presidential Address: *From Rocks to Paper: mapping in the past, present and future.* Rhian Kendall. (**Swansea**).

All normal Saturday meetings start at 11.00am except for the AGM, which begins at 10.30am. Tea and coffee are served from about 45 minutes before the start of each meeting.



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.



Holiday Geology 2016

Due to the spiralling catering costs the Committee has decided that it is no longer possible to provide a free lunch for all those attending the *Holiday Geology* meeting in January 2016. Tea and coffee will be provided but members will have to provide their own lunch. Members are free to bring a packed lunch that can be eaten in the room or use the museum restaurant or one of the many local catering outlets and hosteries. Under the museum's house rules the teas and coffees will

have to be provided by the museum caterers so it is important that all those members who intend coming to the meeting let me know in advance (by **Wednesday 6th January**) so that we can order enough.

As usual the success of the meeting is dependent upon us receiving enough volunteers to present small talks on any topic of their choice. Any contributions will be gratefully received! Could anybody who is willing to give a short talk please contact the Meetings Secretary **before** Christmas please.



From the committee

Membership Renewal

Have you remembered that it is time to renew your membership.? If you have not set up a standing order you will need to send your form and subscription to Mike Gregory, the Membership secretary. Subscriptions were due on 1st September.

Optional Concessionary Rate

The Group no longer has a category of membership for Seniors / Students and everyone should be paying the full subscription rate of £10 unless you wish to claim the Concessionary rate. This is not just open to Retirees but to anyone who is unwaged. Please contact Mike, the Membership Secretary, if you wish to have this

status of membership and the pay the lower rate.

Group Archives

Following several requests in newsletters over the last two or three years for photos etc., a SWGA archive compilation for the fifty years 1960 to 2010 has now been completed. An indication of what it holds was given briefly at last January's Holiday Geology.

It is available as a .pdf file on DVD, to members.

It holds a lot of information about the group and its activities over these years. Programmes, committee members, photos, posters, publications, and lots more.

If you would like a copy, please contact Lynda Garfield, costs (any surplus to the treasurer!)

lyndagarfield@tesco.net, £5 requested to cover costs.



Other Events of Interest

A Day of talks in the National Museum: Layered Landscape; Geology and Travel in Romantic Era Britain. 27th November. Full details on the website -

<http://www.wales.ac.uk/en/CentreforAdvancedWelshCelticStudies/NewsEvents/Events.aspx>

Cardiff University - Public Events; A series of monthly lectures about Isotopes and their relationship to, for example, the origins of life, archaeology, solar system, extinctions. Full details can be found on the website:

<http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/events/category/series/isotopes-in-the-earth-sciences/>

The Parent GA have published a new guide (No 72):

'Devonshire Marbles: Their geology, history and uses' by Gordon Walkden

Bristol University are producing a series of four lectures on consecutive Wednesdays in October to commemorate the bicentenary of William Smith's map. Iain Stewart is speaking on 7th, Simon Winchester on 14th, John Grotzinger on 21st and Richard Fortey on 28th. The lectures will be held in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building at the top of Park Street and are free! Bookings can be made through Eventbrite - **www.eventbrite.com** and the details can be seen on Bristol University's events programme.



Other Geological Organisations

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch: Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru): Tim Palmer tjp@aber.ac.uk or **www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/welshstoneforum**
- U3A South Wales Geology Group: Nigel McGaw. Tel: 01656 654439
- Open University Geological Society: Janet Hiscott ougs.org.uk/severnside
- West Wales Geology Society: **www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk**
- South East Wales RIGS : **<http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>**