

## North Staffordshire Group Geologists' Association Bulletin 48 : January 1999

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### ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

Birch, L. 1998 \*\*

Mineralization hosted by Carboniferous rocks of the North Staffordshire coalfield

Russell Society Newsletter 33 pp.25-27

Review of the occurrence of minerals in the Carboniferous Coal Measures of North Staffs.

Parker, P.J. 1998 \*\*

The Millennium Rock

Down to Earth 25 p.4

NSGGA Member Phill Parker has such good contacts with members of the Russian MIR Space Station team that he has managed to get a piece of Butterton Dyke dolerite flown to MIR where it is currently orbiting Earth. He has called it the Millennium Rock for various reasons, one being the association with Charles Darwin - who 'discovered' the dyke. When it returns to Earth, the rock will be part of a travelling display which will be at the Potteries Museum possibly in August 1999.

Roberts, D.E. 1998 \*\*

Elephant country: the search for mineral deposits

Teaching Earth Sciences 23 pp. 1 9-28

The author, a past NSGGA Chairman, points out that if you are looking for minerals to exploit, you have to go to where they are likely to occur. Even if deposits are proven, there are still problems with justifying extraction in terms of local environmental issues. The article includes tales of success and failure, including the demise of Hem Heath Colliery.

Roberts, D.E. 1998 \*\*

The geology of construction raw materials: stone, natural aggregates, cement, brick clays

Teaching Earth Sciences 23 pp. 115-129

This article, as a counterpart to the one listed above, explains that construction raw materials are big business; several examples from Staffs. are mentioned and the uses, terminology, and problems associated with the geological raw materials are discussed.

*\*\* items are available for reference (by prior appointment) at the Geological Records Centre, Natural History, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW Tel. 01782 232323*

### REPRINT DONATION to the NSGGA LIBRARY

The following reprints have been kindly donated to the Group by Dr. Eric Robinson; they have been added to the rest of the NSGGA Library material which is held at the Potteries Museum.

Challinor, J. 1951 North Staffordshire geology 1811-1948: The progress of research and a short guide to the literature

Trans. North Staffs. Field Club 85 pp.A49-A64 (part 3)

Ford, T.D. 1964 Fossil Karst in Derbyshire

Proc. British Speleological Assoc. 2 pp.50-62

Ford, T.D. 1969 The Blue John fluorspar deposits of Treak Cliff, Derbyshire, in relation to the Boulder Bed

Proc. Yorkshire GeoL Soc. 37 (2) pp.153-157

Ford, T.D. & King, R.J. 1968 Mineralization in the Triassic rocks of south Derbyshire  
Transactions/Section B of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy 77 pp.B42-B43

Ford, T.D. & Sarjeant, W.A.S. 1964 The Peak District mineral index

Bull. Peak District Mines Historical. Society 2 (3) pp.122-150

Hull, E. 1869 The Triassic and Permian rocks of the Midland counties of England

Mem. Geol. Survey pp.1-127 (pp.5-48 missing)

Metcalf, A.T. The geology and scenery of the Derbyshire Dales

Trans. Nottingham Naturalists' Soc. 55th session pp.1-19

Sadier, H.E. & Wyatt, R.J. 1966 A Lower Carboniferous S2 inlier near Hartington, Derbyshire

Proc. Geol. Assoc. 77 (1) pp.55-64

Worssam, B.C., Calver, M.A. & Jago, G. 1971 Newly discovered marine bands and tonsteins in the south Derbyshire coalfield

Nature Physical Science 232 (no.32) pp.121-122

*NSGGA Members can view the collection by making a prior appointment with Natural History staff, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW Tel. 01782 232323*

## **EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

December 1998 finally saw the closure of the fast deep coal mine in North Staffs. - Silverdale Colliery.

## **SET WEEK 1999**

The 1999 Science, Engineering & Technology (SET) week runs from 13 to 20 March. There should be press advertising to let you know all the events that are going on during this period. With particular reference to geology, the following are taking place locally:

### ***Sunday 14 March***

A field excursion : Charles Darwin in North Staffordshire - transmutation, soils and dykes - in relation to present-day problems of conservation around Maer and the Maer Hills

Leader: David Thompson on behalf of the NSGGA, starting from Keele University

Contact David (3 Ladygates, Betley, near Crewe CW3 9AN Tel. 01270 820514) for start times and costs - the trip is limited to 25 participants.

The excursion will follow Charles Darwin's footsteps in North Staffs. between c. 1817 and 1843 and will visit the places which have proved to be seminal in the development of ideas on evolution, the origin of soil and the Tertiary geological history of the area. The visit will be set in the context of planning applications and conservation problems in the area around Maer and the Maer Hills in the last 15 years. It will also include a visit to the site where The Millennium Rock (a specimen of Tertiary dolerite dyke from Butterson) was collected by NSGGA Member Phill Parker, and which is currently in Earth orbit aboard Russia's MIR Space Station!

During the week from **15 - 19 March 1999**, schools are being given the chance to come to organised rock and fossil handling sessions at [The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery](#).

For further details contact: Jane Fineren or Lisa Jefferies at the Museum Tel. 01782 232323

On **Saturday 20 March** (10.30am to 4.00pm), there will be the opportunity for visitors to The Potteries Museum to informally handle rock and fossil specimens and to chat about geology in general. It is likely that Philip Chen from the Lapidary Shop in Burslem will have a stall selling specimens. The NSGGA

members have been invited to be on hand during the day to help with the dispersion of geological knowledge to the Museum visitors, show a display about the Group, and perhaps bring a few of their own specimens to put on show. Contact Don Steward at the Museum (Tel. 01782 232323) if you would like to help.

### **JOHN THOMAS WATTISON GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS**

Some confusion appears to have arisen as to the whereabouts of the collections of the fossil material amassed by the well remembered local geologist and NSGGA member J.T. Wattison who died in 1974. The bulk of his collection (c. 18,000 specimens) of British and Portuguese material were bequeathed to Birmingham University Geological Museum; a good collection of Ordovician trilobites from the Oporto hinterland were already housed at the Natural History Museum, London.

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery houses about 200 specimens collected by JTW. These are mainly local and most come from the Gannister Quarry (Pot Bank Quarry) along Congleton Edge near Mow Cop. This material includes the specimens cited in the 1968 Macclesfield and area Memoir of the Geological Survey (Sheet 110) which was transferred from Keele University in 1986. Other specimens have been provided by Ted Watkin and Malcolm Cox (nephew of JTW).

### **MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

Wednesday 10 February at 7.00pm	AGM and Presidential Address
Wednesday 10 March at 7.00pm	Iceland - Fire and Flood
Wednesday 7 April at 7.00pm	Making a map of the Schiehallion area

Details of meetings from Christine Arkwright Tel. 01772 339022

### **SRIGS GROUP AGM**

The AGM of the Staffs. Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites Group will be held on: Tuesday, 8 June 1999 at 7.30pm

At the Staffs. Wildlife Trust Headquarters, Coutts House, Sandon, Staffs

If you need further details please contact Sue Lawley at the SWT Tel. 01889 508534

### **NEXT NSGGA COMMITTEE MEETING**

- Wednesday, 27 January, 1999 at 7.30pm in the Tutorial and Staff Coffee Room, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Keele University.
- Beforehand, there will be a meeting of the John Myers Awards sub-committee at 7.00pm
- The following meeting of the full committee has been provisionally booked for Wednesday, 14 April, 1999