

North Staffordshire Group Geologists' Association Bulletin 50 : July 1999

In this bulletin :

- [Meetings in 2000](#)
- [Articles & Publications](#)
- [From the Local Papers](#)
- [Extractive Industries](#)
- ['Local' Rock and Fossil Fairs](#)
- [Birchenwood Quarry \(RIGS\), Kidsgrove](#)
- [Brownend Quarry Conservation Day](#)
- [Golden Jubilee Celebrations](#)
- [Highly Commended!](#)
- [Geological Highlights of North Wales](#)
- [Shropshire Geological Society Field Trips](#)
- [Manchester Geological Association Field Trips](#)
- [NSGGA Committee Meetings](#)
- [NSGGA Jubilee Sub-committee Meeting](#)

MEETINGS IN 2000

- Thursday 13 January - GLACIAL HAZARDS Dr. John Reynolds (Reynolds Geoscience Ltd)
- Thursday 10 February - EVOLUTION of the HYDROCARBONS of the IRISH SEA BASIN
Distinguished Visitor's Address: Prof. Stuart Burley
- Thursday 9 March - AGM

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

Dumpleton, S. and Glover, B.W. 1995

The impact of colliery closures on water resources, with particular regard to NRA Severn-Trent region
BGS Hydrogeology Series WD/95/40

Available from the Sales Desk, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG price £80.00

FROM THE LOCAL PAPERS

The Sentinel reported on 13 April that Stroke-on-Trent Groundwork were to use 68 tonnes of sandstone rocks (transferred from the opencast development at Knypersley Quarry, near Brindley Ford) to construct a landmark feature at Berry Hill. The Friends of Berry Hill Fields, made up of members from the local communities of Bentilee, Bucknall and Hanley, are to help in the project which could see a replica of Stonehenge in Stoke-on-Trent! The sandstone is from the Ten-Foot Rock of the Middle Coal Measures which, ironically, may well have been exposed had the proposed opencasting of the site gone ahead several years ago.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

After a 20 year break, Hanson Aggregates want to start extracting Triassic sandstones again from Freehay Quarry near Cheadle as the nearby Huntley Quarry is running out of stone. There is opposition from local residents who are worried about traffic congestion, noise and air pollution. The final decision rests with Staffordshire County Council who are responsible for approving the quarrying of minerals.

'LOCAL' ROCK & FOSSIL FAIRS

- Saturday and Sunday 9-10 October - Bakewell Rock Exchange - at the Lady Manners Drama and Sports Hall, Shutts Lane, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Open between 10.30am and 5.00pm on both days. For further details contact Les Fox Tel. 01629 813542
- Sunday 7 November - Warrington Gem, Mineral & Craft Fair - at Alford Hall, Manchester Road,

Warrington, Cheshire. Open between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Enquiries: Tel. 01925 604245

BIRCHENWOOD QUARRY (RIGS), KIDSGROVE

Parkhill Estates Ltd. of Newport, Shropshire have plans to develop the derelict quarry and former brickworks alongside the Birchenwood Country Park, Kidsgrove. In the 15 hectare site they wish to build a residential development and also retain areas for recreational and nature conservation uses. It is unclear however as to whether they will be enhancing the geological exposure - one of the few large exposures of typical Carboniferous Coal Measure rock sequences. If planning permission is granted work on the site could start this summer and take about 30 weeks to complete.

BROWNEND QUARRY CONSERVATION DAY

Report by Carol Burnett

Sunday, 12 April saw a small group of devoted members turning out at Brownend Quarry, Waterhouses to help clear weed, brambles and scrub. In the event I cannot claim to have been very much help - but the others worked hard; the overgrowth could have been very much worse - evidently prudent pruning and clearing over the years has kept the site fairly clear. Don Steward took us a tour of the quarry and explained the geology. The striking feature is the once horizontal layers of limestone which were affected by the Variscan Orogeny and are now dipping steeply, Hopedale overlying the older Milldale limestones. The Hopedale limestones show graded bedding, fining upwards, suggesting possible turbidite formations. Fossils are mostly crinoid fragments, but colonial and solitary corals have been found towards the northern part of the quarry. Finally a couple of us left Brownend and went nosing around Calton Hill (near Buxton) to find columnar jointed lava flow dolerite in the old quarry - and managed to get back to the car just in time before the heavens opened.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS for the NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE GROUP of the GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION: A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Our local group was the fourth such local group to be formed under the umbrella of the Geologists' Association of London, being preceded by the North-East Lancashire Group in 1922, St. Helen's District Group in 1929 and the Midland Group in 1937 - and followed by the Jamaica Group in 1955! There is some uncertainty about our formal date-of-birth: it is said we began in 1949, and some memories of our older members would support this, but we were not recognised as an official Local Group until 1950. So it seems appropriate to spread our celebrations over the twelve-month period from September 1999, especially as it will then coincide with the Millennium celebrations!

Our programme next year ought to be something special, and planning is already afoot through a working party set up by your committee. Most of our usual winter lectures are already arranged; topics range from glacial hazards through bottled water to oil under the Irish Sea. The field programme is also under development - ideas range from Shropshire and Staffordshire as far as Pembrokeshire. NSGGA will be making a contribution to EARTH ALERT! - the extravaganza of Earth Science being planned by the GA and others in Brighton in May 2000.

There are plans for special activities based around the theme of 'Geology and the Community in North Staffordshire', covering past history, the present and the future. We intend to produce displays about the development of the many local minerals-related industries that flourished in and around the Potteries, and about well-known local people who have contributed to, or connected with, geology in the area. We intend to tell the story of the recent re-mapping of the Stoke area, and the BGS memoir, and their importance to daily life in this area. We will also look ahead to see how geology might influence our lives in this area in the future, dealing with the legacies of past industries, the need for conservation of our geological heritage and stressing the importance of geology in the 'new' employment areas such as tourism.

Events for the public and in particular for schools are an essential part of this programme. SET 2000, next year's week of promoting the public understanding of science, ought to have at least one

contribution involving our group, and means of gaining wider publicity for our 'flagship' lectures are actively being investigated. Finally it has been proposed that the Group should undertake, probably in association with the Staffordshire RIGS group, the writing of a Geology of Staffordshire - a major project that would be started during the Golden Jubilee year, but one which would take several years to complete. Associated with this might be publications with more popular appeal.

All this sounds very grandiose, but it cannot happen without a lot of effort, time and commitment from many people, people who have to come from our relatively small membership (around 80) - which means that things will not happen unless a large proportion of our membership get involved!

This letter, then, is an appeal from your committee for YOUR help in making this grand plan actually happen. We know there is a great pool of enthusiasm, skill and accumulated knowledge out there and we urge you to volunteer your services in whatever ways you feel are appropriate. It would be very helpful if you could provide an early indication of willingness to our Secretary by returning the reply slip with this Bulletin.

We will contact individuals offering help in the early autumn. But note that our first meeting in October will also be the launch of our Golden Jubilee Year - it will soon be with us!

Meanwhile it is time to wish all members a good summer holiday, hopefully somewhere with superb geology and good weather.

With very best wishes

Alastair Fleming
Chairman

HIGHLY COMMENDED!

Congratulations go to NSGGA member Zoe Fleming for gaining a *Highly Commended, Geological Section 1998* award in the Geologists' Association photographic competition 1998. Her photo - *View across the hoodoos and fins of the Eocene Wasatch Formation in Bryce Canyon USA* - was published in the Geologists' Association Circular 933, April 1999.

GEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH WALES

Residential course from **27 August to 2 September, 1999** at Plas Tan y Bwlch (Snowdonia National Park Study Centre). For further details contact: Pam Coleman, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Bllaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3YU Tel. 01766 590324

SHROPSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELDTRIPS

For further details of the following contact: Gordon Hillier, SGS Field Secretary The Smithy, Maesbrook, Oswestry SY10 8QW Tel. 01691 682484

- Wednesday (evening) **21 July** - Leaton Quarry near Wellington - leader: David McClelland
- Sunday **8 August** - Rock and the landscape of Clee Hill

MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FIELDTRIPS

For further details of the following contact: Jane Michael, MGA Field Secretary Tel. 0161 366 0595

- Saturday 7 August - The Upper Dane Valley - leader: Derek Brumhead
Meet at Dane Bower (SK 008 698) in the large lay-by on the south side of the A54 Buxton-Congleton road for a 10.00am start. Packed lunch and walking clothes needed.
- Saturday 11 September - Ennerdale - leader: David Kelly (Cumberland Geological Society)

NEXT NSGGA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 28 September, 1999 at 7.30pm
in Room CBA1.077, Chancellor's Building, Education Department, Keele University

NSGGA JUBILEE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

- Thursday 29 July, 1999 at 6.30pm
in Room CBA1.077, Chancellor's Building, Education Department, Keele University

Author : i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk

[NSGGA Home Page](#)

last modified September 2, 1999