

Bulletin

Number 55

October 2000



Thursday 12 October - Lecture

What are Mass Extinctions?

An address by one of the country's pre-eminent scholars on life (and death) on Earth, preceded by a brief EGM about annual subscription rates.

Professor Chris Paul

(Liverpool University & Palaeontographical Society President)

7.30pm Earth Sciences Department, Keele University

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ROCKWATCH

Saturday 21 October - visit to Dudley Museum & Wrens Nest

Further information from Mike Fereday on 01782 714643

Thursday 9 November - Lecture

The Challenge of Global Climate Change; understanding its past and anticipating its future

What does the weather hold in store for us?

Professor Geoffrey Boulton (Edinburgh University)

8.00pm Earth Sciences Department, Keele University

This talk will be preceded by a buffet meal with the speaker. If you wish to be at the meal, please return the booking form provided as soon as possible to Dorothy Wright.

• Thursday 14 December - Members Night - buffet meal & quiz

7.00pm in Room 324, Mellor Building, Staffordshire University, College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent

Cost £6.00 if you book at least one week in advance, £7.50 if you book less than 7 days before the night. There will be no entry on the night without pre-booking!

Please return the booking form provided as soon as possible to:

Bill Fone, 23 Mill Farm Drive, Randlay, Telford TF3 2NA

for further details of the lectures contact Dorothy Wright: 01782 721576

Diary Dates for 2001

Thursday, 18 January - **Tibet** - Gordon Hillier (Shropshire Geol. Soc.) at Staffs. Univ.

Thursday, 8 February - joint meeting with Keele Geol. Soc. at Keele Univ.

Thursday, 8 March - **AGM & Chairman's Address** at Keele Univ.

Articles & Publications

Fleming, A. & Fleming, Z. 2000 **

Namibia for the amateur geologist

Geology Today 16 May-June, pp.107-111

Not exactly local in content, but an entertaining and interesting account of what an NSGGA Chairman and his wife do on their holidays.

Ford, T.D. 2000 **

Derbyshire Blue John

Transactions of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society 94, pp.23-26

A concise summary of the history of Blue John fluorite from Castleton as given in a Vice Presidential address by Trevor D. Ford to the Leicester Lit. & Phil. Soc.

King, C. 2000 **

Putting together a 'Christmas' lecture: 'Volcanoes - in North Staffordshire'

Teaching Earth Sciences 25, pp.85-87

An account of the talk given as part of the NSGGA Golden Jubilee celebrations. If you missed it, this paper explains how to recreate volcanic effects - including making a tsunami with a balloon and a tank of water.

** 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 ☎ 01782 232323

The Rock Exchange 7 and 8 October 2000

The Peak and Lapidary Society are holding their annual mineral and fossil show - widely acknowledged as one of the best of its kind in Britain (last year there were over 120 stalls) - on **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October 2000** at the Lady Manners Drama and Sports Halls, **Bakewell**, Derbyshire. The show is open from 10.30am to 5.30pm on both days and admission is £1.00 per day for adults; children free. Car parking is free.

For further information contact Les Fox ☎ 01629 813542

Extractive Industries

The Coal Authority has dropped their plans to create a coal gasification plant at Silverdale Colliery. Strong opposition was registered by local residents at the prospect of the area being a testing ground for this process.

Plans to drill and pipe gas from Three Nooks Farm, Horton, near Leek finally look as though have failed. An appeal by Independent Energy to the government when Staffs. County Council rejected the initial planning application last year has also been rejected. Additionally, Independent Energy went into receivership in early September and as yet their generating stations and fuel resources assets have not been sold yet.

Staffordshire RIGS Group

At the SRIGS AGM the existing committee were re-elected en-block. The poor funding situation and the lack of a co-ordinated site assessment programme were discussed. Hopefully co-operation with the Staffs. Wildlife Trust will lead to a raising of the profile of SRIGS with space being made available by the Trust in their display area planned for the Staffs. County Show in late May 2001.

- **next SRIGS committee meeting: Tuesday, 21 November 2000 at 7.30pm**

at the Staffs. Wildlife Trust offices, Coutts House, Sandon. Contact Sue Lawley at the SWT for details ☎ 01889 508534 or contact SRIGS Chairman, Ken Rout ☎ 01785 662291

NSGGA Extra-ordinary General Meeting

Please note that there will be an **EGM** on the night of the talk on **Thursday 12 October**.

East Midlands Geological Society

EMGS has some copies for sale at £5.00 (inc. p&p) of their journal *Mercian Geologist* 14 (4) which includes Dr. Trevor Ford's definitive 30 page paper on 'The growth of geological knowledge in the Peak District'. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact Alan Filmer, EMGS Secretary, Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Epperstone, Nottingham NG14 6AE ☎ 0115 9663854 or e-mail: alan.filmer@which.net

EMGS also has a website www.emgs.org.uk

ROCKWATCH

- **Rockwatch Day (12 August) report**

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Mike Fereday, and at least 9 other volunteers, the Rockwatch Day at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday 12 August was a great success. Despite the weather deciding to produce the one hot weekend of the summer, there were plenty (100+) of participants to undertake activities such as trilobite driving, fossil casting, rock & fossil identification and many others; of these there were 35 children of Rockwatch age, i.e. 6 to 16 years old. 40 Rockwatch packs were sold to interested customers and the ratio of those involved was about 2 adults to every 3 children. At any one time during the day there were between 30-40 event participants. Most stayed for at least 50 minutes, but some kept returning as different events occurred throughout the day. As a result of the day's activities, contacts are being developed with local beaver and scout groups to help with the gaining of their Geologist badge.



the trilobite driving course



making fossils in the sun

• **Saturday 21 October - visit to Dudley Museum & Wrens Nest**

A trip to visit the trilobites and many other fossils at Dudley Museum, followed by a tour of the Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve where Silurian rocks can be seen containing lots of fossils.

Further information about Rockwatch (aimed at families with 6 to 16 year old children with an interest in geology) from Mike Fereday on 01782 714643

The John Myers Awards and Medals 2000

This year's awards went to:

Neil Davies of Keele University, and **Emily Vallance** of Staffordshire University

Runner-up awards went to:

Jon Goodwin and **Neil Glover** of Staffordshire University, and **Charlotte Vye** of Keele University.

The fourth year of the awards honouring John Myers, Founding Father of the NSGGA, has been most successful. This has again been due to the willingness of many people to contribute their time over the year. The presentations took place in the respective Departments on Graduation Day as part of Departmental award ceremonies, in the presence of parents, friends and staff. Ann Myatt presented the awards at Keele, but was unable to attend the Staffs. ceremony. John Reynolds did the honours. The two winners will be invited to attend NSGGA meeting on 9 November 2000.

For further details of the finances and award criteria, please contact John Reynolds, Myers sub-committee Chairman, on 01782 327068.

NSGGA Bids Group

Vice Chairman Bill Fone is to lead a small group of members to look into the availability of grants to promote NSGGA activities. He would like to hear from anyone with an interest in filling-in forms for a good cause. - His contact details are below.

Useful Addresses

• **Manchester Geological Association**

For details contact: Jane Michael, MGA Field Secretary
22 St. Giles Drive, Godley, Hyde SK14 2S, e-mail: jammyjane@aol.com or ☎ 01613 660595

• **Open University Geological Society**

For details contact: Mrs. Chris Arkwright, OUGS Membership Secretary
321 Station Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6EE or ☎ 01613 660595
You don't have to be an OUGS student to join the Society

• **Shropshire Geological Society**

For general details of SGS activities contact: Susan Beale, SGS Secretary
☎ 01694 723679 email: beales@church-stretton.freerve.co.uk
For further details about the field meetings contact: Gordon Hillier, SGS Field Secretary
☎ 01691 682484 email: gr-hillier@micro-plus-web.net

NSGGA Committee - next meeting

- **Thursday, 16 November 2000 at 7.00pm (note earlier start)**
in Room CBA1.077, Chancellor's Building, Education Department, Keele University

NSGGA Committee 2000-01

Chairman: Alastair Fleming,

1 Vicars Close, Oulton, Stone, Staffs ST15 8UQ ☎ 01785 816862 email: alastair_fleming@talk21.com

Vice-chairman: Bill Fone,

23 Mill Farm Drive, Randlay, Telford TF3 2NA ☎ 01782 294284 (work) ☎ 01952 596656 (home)
email: w.fone@staffs.ac.uk

Secretary: Dorothy Wright,

24 Elm Tree Lane, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 8NG ☎ 01782 721576

Treasurer: Carol Burnett,

28 Brookside Close, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2HX ☎ 01782 713227 email: carol@burnett40.freemove.co.uk

Membership Sec.: Mike Brown,

6 Spring Close, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3TQ ☎ 01270 878130 email: michael.a.brown@lineone.net

Field Sec.: Steve Alcock

Longfields, Park Lane, Cheddleton, near Leek ST13 7JS ☎ 01538 360431

Conservation Sec.: Keith Harrison,

21 Grove Avenue, Heron Cross, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3BA ☎ 01782 331699

Bulletin Sec.: Don Steward,

Natural History, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DE ☎ 01782 232323

email: don.steward@stoke.gov.uk

Executive Committee (honorary):

Dr. Colin Exley; Terry Jones; David Thompson; Ted Watkin.

Executive Committee (elected):

Janet Fairclough; Peter Hulme; Gilbert Kelling; Dave Roberts; Ken Rout; John Winchester.

Executive Committee (co-opted):

Phil Burkinshaw, Mike Fereday, Zoe Fleming, Chris King, John Reynolds; in addition a representative from the Staffs. University Geol. Soc. and the Keele Geol. Soc. is invited to attend committee meetings

Produced for the NSGGA at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DE
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