

Bulletin

Number 69

April 2004



Diary Dates

Sunday 18 April Goyt Valley and Shining Tor

Leader: Dr Fred Broadhurst

Start: 10.00am at Goyt Moss car park, grid ref: SK 018 716

Saturday 24 April The rock beneath our feet

NSGGA Event Day at The Potteries Museum, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

10.30 - 4.00pm, drop-in, £1.00 for activities (See page 2 for details)

Aspects of the Geology of Staffordshire and the industrial application of local rock materials

7/8/9 May Watchet Weekend (with Essex Group)

Leader: Dr Eric Robinson *** This weekend now fully booked.

Dr Robinson will be giving a presentation at 9.00pm on Friday evening 7th May in the hotel.

Saturday 22 May Brown End Quarry trail launch

Official launch at 11.00am, at Brown End Quarry, Waterhouses (SK 090 502) to see the refurbishment and replacement of the interpretation trail boards. There will be lots of interesting things to see and do, especially for children.

Sunday 27 June Wrens Nest

Leader: Dr David Ray:

Start: 10:30am at the main Reserve car park off the A4168 Priory Road near the junction with the A4123 Birmingham New Road - by the King Arthur public house)

The day will consist of a tour/fossil collecting around Wrens Nest, illustrating Dr Ray's ideas concerning the preservation potential and sea level change. So there will be a chance to collect from a range of palaeoenvironments and consequently fossil taxa.

Field Secretaries: Elizabeth Hallam and Eileen Fraser

For further details about any field trips please contact Elizabeth Hallam at 49 Birch Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NN ☎ 01260 275616 or email: k.hallam@virgin.net

Diary Dates

Sunday 18 July Skipton Moor

Leader: Dr Neil Aitkenhead

Start: 8.30am at Keele to catch mini-bus. This will be a linear walk and the mini-bus transport is important. Please complete a [booking form](#) to attend.

The main aim of the excursion is to walk up over the unique Millstone Grit topography of Skipton Moor characterized by small craggy whaleback ridges arranged en echelon and thought to represent a series of coarse sand-bodies in a succession of delta slope turbiditic siltstones and sandstones of the Pendle Grit Formation. Evidence of delta abandonment and emergence (The Bradley Coal) followed by marine submergence (the fossiliferous *Cravenoceras cowlingense* Marine Band) will also be seen.

Field Secretaries: Elizabeth Hallam and Eileen Fraser

For further details about any field trips please contact Elizabeth Hallam at 49 Birch Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NN ☎ 01260 275616 or email: k.hallam@virgin.net

NSGGA Event Day - The rock beneath our feet

Saturday 24 April 2004, at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

10.30 - 4.00pm, drop-in, £1.00 for activities

Aspects of the Geology of Staffordshire and the industrial application of local rock materials

This event highlights two important aspects of the Geology of Staffordshire:

- (a) the development and changing pattern of local geological environments during the Permo-Trias and Carboniferous Periods, and
- (b) the industrial application of local wealth in the form of rock materials.

Come and see the geology that made the local area an industrial powerhouse...image the changing environments from deltas to deserts...understand the nature of the local life (as fossils).

Main items:

1. Carboniferous to Trias simplified stratigraphic column with
 - illustrations and text on environments and their development (including paintings of past and present local environments)
 - interactive demonstrations to highlight different aspects
 - rock samples for children to handle
 - maps of the local geology and environmental issues
2. Rock and fossil identification
Bring your own specimens for identification and/or comment.
3. Children's activities (GeoWatch team)
 - Carboniferous fossil casting
 - Staffordshire Geology "cut and paste" jigsaw
4. Industrial utilisation of local geological formations
Simple posters illustrating formation, usage and other data on: limestone, salt, water, coal, clay, ironstone, and sand & gravel.
5. Details on local sites and conservation, including the
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and local Geodiversity aspects.

HELP NEEDED We hope members will be able to attend on Saturday, even if only for a couple of hours, to help organise children's events (GeoWatch) or man specific display features.

Many thanks, Peter Floyd, NSGGA Chairman

If you are able to help please contact:

Mike Fereday on 01782 713227 or by email on carol@burnett40.freereserve.co.uk

Brown End Quarry trail launch

Saturday 22 May 2004 - Staffordshire Wildlife Trust launches new interpretive trail

Please come to the launch of SWT's new geological interpretive trail at Brown End Quarry at 11.00am.

Brown End Quarry is an important geological site in north Staffordshire. The site is designated as an SSSI and has been open to the public for many years. Over the last 12 months the Trust, NSGGA and others with a geological interest, have been working closely with consultant, John Macadam to redesign the visitor information at the reserve. The new facilities will include full colour interpretive panels, a new leaflet, education pack and outdoor seating for school visits.

To celebrate the completion of the project the Trust is holding an official opening of the site on 22 May 2004. Following the official opening at 11.00 visitors will be encouraged to participate in a variety of family activities – including fossil casting, creative arts and a geological quiz.

The project is funded by Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Rural Regeneration north-east Staffordshire. Lafarge will fund the launch event.

To find out more about the site, or the opening, contact:

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Staffs ST17 0WT 01889 880100

"Rock around the Quarry"

As part of the trail launch at Brown End Quarry there will be lots of interesting things to see and do, especially for children.

Helen Gee from Staffs Wildlife Trust (who own and manage the quarry) has asked us to help by providing volunteers on the day to look after the following aspects:

HELP IS REQUIRED:

- To control car parking at the car park in Waterhouses, the one by the quarry will be reserved for badge holders only. There will be a need for marshals to direct traffic to the car park and visitors from the car park to the quarry.
- To deal with queries at the "Reception" desk and give visitors information about the day's events and hand out leaflets etc.
- Carol and Mike Fereday will be doing "Carboniferous" fossil casting and could also do with some help.

The Official Opening will be at 11 00am.

If you are able to help please contact:

Mike Fereday on 01782 713227 or by email on carol@burnett40.freeseve.co.uk

Chester Literature Festival

A Guide to the End of the World: Everything You Never Wanted to Know by Prof. Bill McGuire

Wednesday, October 20, 7.30pm start at University College Chester

This year the department at University College Chester is sponsoring an event for the Chester Literature Festival. They have been fortunate to secure the services of Bill McGuire, distinguished volcanologist, author and TV/radio pundit, who will be talking on the theme of one of his popular science books: *A Guide to the End of the World: Everything You Never Wanted to Know*

If you've seen any of Bill's TV documentaries you'll be aware that he is a very engaging speaker. The talk will begin at 7.30pm on Wednesday, October 20 at University College Chester. Normal admission price is £6.00.

For further details contact: Dr. Martin Degg, Senior Lecturer, University College Chester

☎ 01244 392749 email: m.degg@chester.ac.uk

AGM - A Brief Summary

At the NSGGA AGM on 25 March 2004, Chairman Peter Floyd quickly and efficiently ran through the agenda items. Of note was that the membership numbers are remaining steady at about 95, the finances of the Group are in good order, and that a high proportion of the membership are actively participating in the variety of activities held by NSGGA.

The meeting also passed a motion that from 2005, there will be a special annual subscription rate of £3.00 to encourage students to join the Group. As is normal practice with membership, anyone paying after September automatically becomes a member for the following year. This means that students starting their new academic year can join straight away in October 2004 to benefit from the new rate of fee for 2005.

A listing of the elected committee can be seen at the end of this Bulletin. The Executive Committee sees the return of some old favourites and welcomes Janet and Dave Osborn for the first time.

Articles & Publications

Addison, K. & Reynolds, J.R. (editors) 2001

Proceedings of the Fourth UKRIGS Annual Conference

published by Association of UK RIGS Groups (UKRIGS), 105pp.

Articles by NSGGA members include *RIGS and Education* by Alastair Fleming and *RIGS Recording, Assessment, Designation and Notification* by John Reynolds.

John Reynolds has kindly donated a copy of these proceedings to the NSGGA Library, which is currently held at the Potteries Museum**

Styles, P. 2003 **

Environmental geophysics: a site characterization tool for urban regeneration in the post-mining era.

Geology Today 19 no.5, pp.173-178

Keele Professor Peter Styles explains the uses of microseismic monitoring in the regeneration of 'brown-field sites' affected by previous industrial activities. Includes reference to the Northwich and Silverdale areas.

**Copies available for reference by prior appointment at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - 01782 232323

Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan

The official launch, sponsored by Hanson Aggregates, of the Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan (SGAP) was well attended at a meeting held at the Staffs. Wildlife Trust Wolseley Centre headquarters on 22 March. Introduced by Paul Wilcox (SGAP Chairman), short speeches were given by Jonathan Larwood of English Nature, Guy Corbet-Marshall (SWT) and by the author Laura Cox.

Over the past months Laura has been collating the data she has accumulated from site visit assessment and the results can be viewed on the SGAP website at: www.sgeoap.org.uk

Unfortunately Laura's contract runs out at the end of March 2004. She is taking the opportunity to change to her married name of Laura Robinson, and to build upon her farming heritage by getting a herd of cattle to look after on the farm where she lives between Leek and Buxton.

Extractive Industries

Further to the report on concrete product manufacturer *Dale Crete* of Leekbrook seeking consent to work aggregate at Captain's Barn Farm near Weston Coyney (SJ949455), local residents have petitioned Staffs. County Council to refuse planning permission. The site is adjacent to Creswell Piece Wood, which is important for its trees and plant life, and is in a green belt area. Another major concern is the predicted 2 lorry loads an hour travelling to Leekbrook along the A522 on working days. The estimated output of the quarry is 75,000 tonnes a year for 16 years.

On 14 January 2004, the Leek Post & Times reported that Lafarge Cement at Waterhouses had applied for planning permission to extend their limestone and shale quarries, the products of which are used in making cement. A water feature may be created in areas where shale extraction has been completed. Waterhouses Parish Council approved the proposal.

Shropshire Geological Society field trips

For further information contact: David Pannett on 01743 850773.

23-25 April: The Lake District: Volcanics and metamorphics. Led by Susan Beale

15 May: Building Stones of some South Shropshire Churches. Joint meeting with the Geology Section of the Woolhope Club, led by David Pannett and Andrew Jenkinson. Meet at 10.00am at Corvedale Road car park, Craven Arms. Bring packed lunch. A circular car tour will include Church Stretton, Cardington, Rushbury and Acton Scott churches, with a look at Soudley and Acton Scott quarries,

26 May: Wednesday: Evening visit to Sharpstones Quarry, Bayston Hill. Meet at quarry office at 6.30pm. Bring strong footwear.

5 June: 10.00-4.00. Geopark Extravaganza at Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley (east side of the Severn 5 miles south of Bridgnorth off the A442).

12 June: Hawkstone Park Historic Follies: Geology and History. Led by Christine Rayner and David Pannett. An all day visit to this amazing north Shropshire parkland, which combines natural and man-made landscape. Meet 10.30am at the Visitor Centre. Bring packed lunch and strong shoes. It is moderately strenuous with some rough walking.

17 July: A Day around Titterstone Clee, led by Andrew Jenkinson. Meet 10.30am at the car park in Clee Hill village (by the cattle grid).

East Midlands Field Guide

The East Midlands Geological Society's **East Midlands Field Guide**, published jointly with the Geological Association, is now on sale at £8.00 to non-members (£6.00 to members).

Copies are available by post on application to Ian Sutton at University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ. Copies are also available for sale to members in person at the Centre, or from the Secretary or other Council members. **Please note:** there will be a postage and packing charge of £1 for posting if this is requested - please add the appropriate amount to your cheque. Copies will also be available for sale to members at Indoor Meetings and on sale at various other outlets including the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth.

Best Wishes

Best Wishes are extended to our Chairman Peter Floyd who will soon be recovering from undergoing a heart bypass operation.

Contacts List: NSGGA Committee 2004-05

Chairman: Peter Floyd,

Temporary Address until 9.8.2004

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☎ 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; Alastair Fleming; Dave Osborn;

Janet Osborn, John Reynolds; John Winchester

Executive Committee (co-opted):

Mariah Gray; Laura Robinson

in addition a representative from the Staffs. University Geol. Soc. and the Keele Geol. Soc. is invited to attend committee

Why not visit the NSGGA web pages: www.esci.keele.ac.uk/nsgga

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