

Bulletin

Number 70

July 2004



Diary Dates

Sunday 18 July

Skipton Moor

Leader: Dr Neil Aitkenhead

Fully booked

Saturday 21 August The Landscape of North-west Shropshire

Leader: Gordon Hillier

Start & Meeting Point: to be arranged

This excursion aims to provide an overview of the geology, geomorphology and archaeology of the country around Oswestry - from the Ordovician to the Triassic (with a cover of glacial sediments). See further details on the following pages.

To book for this trip, please contact either of our Field Secretaries: Elizabeth Hallam, 49 Birch Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NN 01260 275616 or email: k.hallam@virgin.net or Eileen Fraser, 47 Longdown Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4QH

Saturday 2 October Down the Mine

The Mining Heritage of North Staffordshire and the Peak District

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, 10.30 - 4.00pm

An event being produced by NSGGA to tie in with the BBC Learning Initiative for the Natural History of Great Britain series presented by Alan Titchmarsh and to be screened in Autumn 2004. See further details on the following pages.

Winter Programme

Thursday 14 October

The Octopus' Garden

Dr. Alison Scott (Manchester University)

7.30pm start, School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University

There will be the opportunity for Members to join Alison for a informal meal at the Chancellors' Building before the talk.

For more information about the talks please contact NSGGA Secretary - Dorothy Wright

Field Excursion Itinerary for *The Landscape of North-west Shropshire*

Leader: Gordon Hillier

Date: 21st August 2004

Maps: OS Landranger 1:50,000 126 (Shrewsbury), Pathfinder 1:25,000 847 & 868. BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 137 Oswestry (drift & solid, surveyed 1911-19).

References: *Geology in Shropshire* P. Toghil 1990. ISBN 185310 0900 Swan Hill Press. (You should be able to order it through any good bookshop. It is an excellent overview of Shropshire geology)

British Regional Geology, North Wales BGS, 1961 (or later edition).

Start time & Meet: To be arranged. Car numbers will be minimised to allow the smallest possible number of full cars around the narrow country lanes we will be using during the day. *Please be prepared to fill seats in other cars.*

Field Requirements: There will be several short walks over rough ground and quarry visits, so come prepared with the usual practical clothing and footwear. Bring your own sandwich lunch. Hand lens, acid bottle and hammer (restricted use) are useful accessories. We will finish around 4.30-5.00 pm.

Aim of Excursion: To provide an overview of the geology, geomorphology and archaeology of the country around Oswestry - from the Ordovician to the Triassic (with a cover of glacial sediments). The variety of the rocks, especially the Carboniferous, and their influence on the landscape and upon man's activities through the ages, will be demonstrated. The itinerary includes Llanyrnech for a general viewpoint, Ordovician mudstones and Lower Carboniferous Limestone (also the Heritage site with Hoffman Kiln), Dolgoch Quarry for Upper Carboniferous Limestone, Racecourse Quarry for the Cefn-y-fedw Sandstone (Millstone Grit equivalent), Trefonen Old Colliery for relics of former coal mining activities (Coal Measures), the area west of Oswestry to show the effect of structure on the landscape, Nesscliffe Quarry for Triassic sandstones.

For further details please contact either of our Field Secretaries,

or Gordon Hillier, The Smithy, Maesbrook, Oswestry, Shropshire ☎ 01691 682484

To book for this trip, please contact either of our Field Secretaries: Elizabeth Hallam, 49 Birch Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NN 01260 275616 or email: k.hallam@virgin.net or Eileen Fraser, 47 Longdown Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4QH

Winter Lecture Programme

All talks to be held in the School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University
and all are on Thursday nights.

14 October 2004, 7.30pm start

The Octopus' Garden

Dr. Alison Scott (Manchester University)

There will be the opportunity for Members to join Alison for a meal at the Chancellors Building before the talk.

11 November 2004, 7.30pm start Fourth Professor Cope Memorial Lecture

From Stone to Stomach

Prof. David Manning (Newcastle University)

There will be a buffet meal in the Department before the talk, please look out for booking details.

9 December 2004, 7.00pm? start Christmas Social

including: TBA

(NSGGA)

There will be a buffet meal in the Department before the talk, please look out for booking details.

20 January 2005 , 7.30pm start

Where Archaeology meets Geology in Egypt: the rescue of the sandstone temples at Abu Simbel

Dr. Bob Roach (Keele University)

There will be the opportunity for Members to join Bob for a meal at the Chancellors Building before the talk.

10 February 2005 , 7.30pm start

The day the Earth caught fire

Professor Andy Saunders (Leicester University)

A talk about large igneous provinces

There will be a buffet meal in the Department before the talk, please look out for booking details.

10 March 2005 , 7.30pm start AGM and Chairman's Address

including: *The K/T Boundary event*

Dr. Peter Floyd (NSGGA Chairman)

The Rock Exchange**weekend, October 9-10**

Self-described as 'Britain's Premier Mineral & Fossil Show', The Rock Exchange will be held at Lady Manners School, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Open 10.00am to 5.00pm each day. Cost for adults £1.00 (£1.50 for both days), children free. Carparking is free.

For further details contact Les Fox ☎ 01629 813542 or look at: www.plms.org.uk

Down the Mine

The Mining Heritage of North Staffordshire and the Peak District

Saturday 2nd October 2004 event at the Potteries Museum, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent**10.30 – 4.00, Activities £1 per child**

An exhibition describing the mining activities of yesteryear (coal, lead, copper, fluorspar and iron). Activities: There will be many fun things for children to do. Crawl along a mine tunnel, search for minerals in a spoil heap (take your finds home), make a mining scene to take home, learn how to pan, buddle and jig for minerals.

Event organised by the North Staffs Group of the Geologists' Association, in association with Apedale Heritage Centre, Peak District Mining Museum and Long Rake Spar Ltd

Linked visits could be arranged (using own transport) on Sunday 3rd October to either Apedale Heritage Centre or Mine or the Peak District Mining Museum at Matlock Bath.

For more information contact Mike Fereday on ☎ 01782 713227

Notice of the 7th UKRIGS Annual Conference**Thursday 2nd – Saturday 4th September 2004 (Conference)****UKRIGS Annual Conference at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Road, Dudley.**

Dudley plays host to geoconservation professionals and amateurs alike from all over the UK. Its primary theme has been honed down to 'Broadening horizons for Geoconservation'

We will be presenting the Wrens Nest Seven Sisters as a case study, and talking about the bigger picture for geotourism in the Dudley area. This will, as previously stated include special presentations on *The application of engineering expertise to conserving and managing geological sites*, and *The use of audio visual, film and the media to bring the geological story of local sites to the widest possible audience*. The programme will include updates on Geoparks and case studies from other parts of the UK.

Thursday and Friday will be the main part of the conference and will include field visits to the engineering works at The Seven Sisters at Wrens Nest, and hopefully the underground tunnel system beneath Drakelow, near Kinver. Saturday will be the UKRIGS AGM and we will finish with a final field trip, which will include some of the public art that has a geological theme. Displays will be mounted at the Museum and the BCGS, as the host RIGS Group will be acting as 'ushers' and 'gofers' for the event.

For those of you who have never been to one of these conferences and experienced what is going on across the UK to make geological sites more accessible to visit and enjoy, this is the best chance to test the water.

Graham Worton

For booking arrangements contact Alan Cutler **as soon as possible** - Alan Cutler, BCGS, 21 Primrose Hill, Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5AG ☎ 01394 443644 (day)
email: acutler@btconnect.com

Earth Sciences Continuing Education Courses at Keele University 2004/5

Forthcoming education classes at Keele:

Geomorphology and the Local Landscape

Peter Knight and Richard Waller

Autumn Semester 2004: Tuesday Evenings 7-9 Weekly

Landscapes hold clues to the history of the environment. Our local area, for example, is dominated by landforms created in glacial conditions. This course explores the links between our modern landscape and the environments in which it was created.

Bent, Buckled and Broken Rocks

Ian G. Stimpson and Michelle Stewart

Autumn 2004 & Spring 2005 Semesters: Saturday Mornings 9:30 – 1:30 Fortnightly

The forces required to deform rocks are huge and Earth exhibits a wide variety of geological structures. This course examines how, where and why these structures are formed and will study a wide variety of geological structures including faults, joints and fractures, the ways in which faults link together into fault systems, fault rocks, folds and fold systems, and rock fabrics.

Investigating Subsurface Cheshire – Practical Geophysical Surveying

Ros Todhunter

May 2005

Working as three separate groups across Cheshire, each will carry out one day of geophysical surveys to investigate the geological variations in shallow depths below the ground surface. Then all three groups will come together at Northwich Salt Museum for one day of data processing, geological interpretation and discussion of results.

More details to be found via: Website: www.keele.ac.uk/courses/cpe/

Enquiries: enquiries@cpe.keele.ac.uk or Enrolment Hotline: ☎ 01782 583436

Chester Literature Festival

Wednesday, October 20, 7.30pm start at University College Chester cost £6.00

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

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

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

John Myers Report June 2004

The John Myers Awards assessment panel, comprising John Reynolds, Alastair Fleming, David Thompson, Peter Floyd, David Osborne and Mike Fereday met at Keele University on 25th June 2004 to assess the projects submitted by Keele and Staffs Universities. After deliberation the panel decided to make the following awards:

Keele University:

Winner: To be awarded a cheque for £100 and the John Myers Medal.

Stephen Cain, a 4-year MGeoscience undergraduate for his work on "An integrated structural and stratigraphical study of the Bulgarian Black Sea region".

Runners up: Each to be awarded a cheque for £20.

Max McGillen, a 4-year MGeoscience undergraduate and

David Moy a 3-year joint honours (Geology and Geography) undergraduate.

Staffordshire University:

Winner: To be awarded a cheque for £100 and the John Myers Medal.

Leigh Weston, a 3-year Applied Geology undergraduate for his work on "An appraisal of Callow Hill Quarry, Shropshire".

Runners up: Each to be awarded a cheque for £20.

Louisa Olden: a 3-year Applied Geology undergraduate and

Rachel Morris: a 3-year Applied Geology undergraduate.

The awards ceremonies took place on 8th July at Keele and 13th July at Staffs. University.

Extractive Industries

The restoration of Trentham Gardens has provided the opportunity to reopen a sandstone seam at Tearne Quarry, Hollington, near Cheadle, owned by John Oldham & Sons. About 175 tonnes of the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group, Hollington Formation sandstone is to be used to restore balustrades to compliment the original ornamental features originally put in place in the mid-19th century from the same quarry.

Stone Sculptures

The Leek Post & Times of 9 June reported the work of Foxt sculptor Bill Hepden. Mr. Hepden inherited a quarry in Foxt and, since the early 1970s, he has been producing stone carvings. Initially working on small mushrooms, he progressed to larger 'Staddlestones', and has now embarked on recreating up to 3 metre high Easter Island heads.

Shropshire Geological Society field trips

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).

For further information contact: David Pannett on ☎ 01743 850773.

Field Trip Review – Wrens Nest, Dudley 27 June 2004

We had an excellent visit to the Wren's Nest on Sunday 27 June. Dr David Ray brought glorious weather, and gave us very detailed explanation of the palaeoenvironments that have resulted in such excellent preservation of the fossils in the Silurian Wenlock Limestone at Dudley. He also took us to some of the lesser-known fossil collecting sites, so we all returned with rucksacks considerably heavier than when we started.

A number of children and their parents, who had attended several of Mike and Carol Fereday's GeoWatch sessions, met us there. They spent a very happy morning searching for fossils in the "fossil trench" under the watchful eye of Mike, Carol and Chris Eardley.

Nobody found a specimen worthy of preservation in the Dudley Museum Collection but all had a very enjoyable day.

Elizabeth Hallam

Contacts List: NSGGA Committee 2004-05

Chairman: Peter Floyd,

Temporary Address until 9.8.2004

26 Ferndown Drive South, Northwood, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4EH ☎ 01782 714261

email: floyd.pa@virgin.net

Vice-chairman: Mike Fereday,

28 Brookside Close, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2HX ☎ 01782 713227

email: carol@burnett40.freemove.co.uk

Secretary: Dorothy Wright,

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

Treasurer: Carol Fereday,

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.: Elizabeth Hallam and Eileen Fraser

Elizabeth Hallam: 49 Birch Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NN ☎ 01260 275616

email: k.hallam@virgin.net

Eileen Fraser: 47 Longdown Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4QH

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, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW

☎ 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

UKRIGS Seventh UKRIGS Annual Conference

Thursday 2nd - Saturday 4th September 2004
 Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Road, Dudley



'Broadening Horizons'

(Subject to confirmation and scheduling)

Wednesday 1st September	18.00 - 21.00	Early registration and informal viewing of museum displays.
Thursday 2nd September	09.00 - 10.00	Registration and coffee
	10.00 - 12.30	RIGS and Planning Supplementary Planning Guidance RIGS Groups, Museums and Collections Lunch in Dudley Museum
Friday 3rd September	13.30	Field Excursion: 'From Trap to Trogs' An E-W traverse from the Rowley Rag dolerite by way of Upper Carboniferous to Triassic rock dwellings.
	09.00 - 10.00 10.00 - 12.30	Registration and coffee Beyond the Planners - a current case study of Castle Hill (SINC) & Wrens Nest (NNR) - the Vision, the Engineering challenge, Wildlife issues and Geotourism. Taking Sites to Global Designation - Geoparks Telling it Big - Engaging the Media Lunch in Dudley Museum
Saturday 4th September	13.30	Field Excursion: 'Siluria - Sir Roderick Murchison's Green'. Visiting Castle Hill (SINC), Wrens Nest (NNR) - the Dudley Caverns (via canal boat) culminating with supper.
	09.00 - 09.30 09.30 - 11.00	Registration and coffee UKRIGS Progress Updates UKRIGS Data Base LGAPS
	11.30 - 12.30	Annual General Meeting Lunch in Dudley Museum
	13.30 - 16.30	Field Excursion: 'Coal, Clay & Canals'



General Information

- Definitions: (A) Resident - delegate registering with Ward Arms Hotel package
(B) Non-resident - delegate making independent accommodation arrangements or day delegate not requiring accommodation.
- Residential Package
Accommodation has been reserved at the Ward Arms Hotel (3*), Birmingham Rd Dudley, DY1 4RN, (www.corushotels.com) on a first come basis. All rooms are en-suite.

Dinner, bed & breakfast @ £70 per person/per night
Bed & breakfast @ £60 per person/per night

In the event of all available rooms at the Ward Arms being taken delegates will be referred to Black Country Tourism.
- Independent Accommodation
Delegates who would prefer simpler/cheaper accommodation may make their own arrangements and should register as non-residents and pay the daily fees. The Dudley Accommodation guide may be viewed or downloaded from www.discoverdudley.org.uk or a copy can be sent by post on request. Alternatively help is available from Black Country Tourism 0121 569 2369
- The various packages include morning coffee, lunch, conference documentation and transport for field excursions.
- Transport between the Ward Arms and Dudley Museum will be provided on Thursday and Friday.
- Transport from Dudley Museum will be provided for field excursions except on Saturday when cars will be used.
- As part of the excursion, an early evening supper will be provided in the Dudley Caverns on Friday 3rd September, at an additional cost of £10 per person. Delegates who book D,B&B (at the Ward Arms) need not pay if taking the supper in lieu of the hotel dinner.
- There is no charge to attend the AGM but the daily charge will apply for attendance at the other sessions or for lunch.
- Booking:
Please complete one booking form per person (photocopy acceptable) and return with payment as soon as possible but not later than 20th July for the Ward Arms package or 16th August for all other delegates to:
Alan Cutler, BCGS, 21 Primrose Hill, Wordsley, Stourbridge, DY8 5AG

Tel: 01384 443644 (day) or 07977 928493 (mob), email acutler@btconnect.com
- Cancellations:
Cancellations at Ward Arms after 1st August will be subject to hotel penalties.
- Displays:
Display space and a limited number of display boards are available at the museum for poster type displays by member RIGS Groups. Commercial and other organisations who would like to mount displays should contact Alan Cutler.
- Travel:
Further information available in due course or sooner on request

