

Bulletin Number 71 October 2004



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.

A talk exploring the glories of the ocean worlds

Thursday 11 November

From Stone to Stomach

Fourth Professor Cope Memorial Lecture

Prof. David Manning (Newcastle University)

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

There will be a buffet meal in the Department before the talk, please return the [booking form](#)

From stone to stomach: how minerals feed the world:

Whenever you buy food, you are buying something that has been produced using minerals, which it contains. Fruits and vegetables contain minerals that we (or our domestic farm animals) consume. World trade means that the offtake of fertiliser minerals through plant production is very unequal, because many growers cannot afford to buy mineral fertilisers. This talk examines some of the issues that affect the use of mineral fertilisers in agriculture and how they relate to our consumption in a world where the supermarkets are becoming increasingly focused on fair trade.

Thursday 9 December

7.00pm start

Christmas Social

7.00pm start, School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University

including: a buffet supper and a short illustrated talk about visiting the *North American Rockies* by NSGGA member Elizabeth Hallam

Members are also invited to bring along any of their own samples, specimens, maps that they would like to have identified and displayed to those attending.

To book a buffet meal please return the [booking form](#).

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

Winter Lecture Programme

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

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.

17 March 2005 (confirmed date), 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. Car parking is free.

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

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

A message from the Membership Secretary

Shortly all members will receive a letter giving their current membership status and also all their details which are held on the membership computer database.

I would be extremely grateful if members could check all the information carefully and make any necessary alterations, (particularly post codes, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.)

The complete letter should be returned to me, **you may wish to include your 2005 Subscription payment** which is due at the end of December, and also any arrears if you have incurred them – full details will be in individual letters!

Thanks for your co-operation

Mike Brown

Articles & Publications

Cossey, P.J., Adams, A.E. et al 2004

British Lower Carboniferous Stratigraphy

Geological Conservation Review Series 29, publ. by JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee).

Patrick Cossey (NSGGA member and Staffs. Univ. lecturer) is the lead author on this review containing detailed description of the most important Lower Carboniferous sites in Britain - including places like Brown End Quarry

For further details about the GCR project, visit: www.jncc.gov.uk/earthheritage

and the book itself is available, amongst other places, from NHBS Ltd, price £88.00, visit: www.nhbs.com

Mountney, N.P.. 2004 **

The sedimentary signature of deserts and their response to environmental change.

Geology Today 20 no.3, pp.101-106

Keele lecturer Nigel Mountney explains how desert system environments can be affected by both sedimentary behaviour, such as dune migration, and changes such climate change.

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

Brown End Quarry

It is now possible to take a virtual tour of this Staffs. Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve near Waterhouses by visiting the web site at:

www.browndquarry.org.uk

Further information is available from Helen Gee at the Staffs. Wildlife Trust - ☎ 01889 880100

UKRIGS receives ALSF grant for Earth science field teaching activities

UKRIGS and English Nature are pleased to announce that UKRIGS is to receive an Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund grant for a UKRIGS Education Officer pilot project to use five former aggregates sites to develop and publish examples of high quality Earth science field teaching activities. These will mostly be for use by non-specialist teachers delivering the National Curriculum to students from Primary to GCSE level.

The main aim is to address the serious problems of schools failing to undertake Earth science fieldwork, highlighted in English Nature Report 523 - "The use of geological sites by schools", prepared by the National Stone Centre.

For this educational /interpretational work there will be close liaison with RIGS Groups and our partners in the Earth Science Teachers' Association [including the Earth Science Education Unit, based at Keele University] and the National Stone Centre. This project will follow the ESTA/ESEU pattern of operation in the use of writing workshops and the production of web-based activities and CDs. Links will be made between our field teaching activities and their classroom/ laboratory practical activities hosted on the www.jesei.org.uk website.

It is planned that, wherever possible, the interpretive activities will be case studies/exemplars capable of use, some with minor adaptation, at similar sites elsewhere. They will be written for three levels: Primary[mainly KS2] Lower Secondary[KS3] and Upper Secondary[KS4/GCSE]. They will help teachers in the delivery of the National Curriculum to students at all levels, locally and nationally, and thus directly benefit a large section of the community affected by past aggregates extraction. The selected sites will be designated geoconservation sites, have open public access and likely be currently owned by public bodies.

The five sites of the Pilot Project will include:

1. The National Stone Centre, Wirksworth, Derbyshire. This is a large open site demonstrating a range of its tropical reef environments in the Lower Carboniferous. It is frequently visited by school groups.

2. Park Hall Country Park, Stoke-on-Trent, including the Hulme Quarries National Nature Reserve/ SSSI. The Triassic sandstones and pebble beds reveal a story of flash floods in a desert environment. The open access site is frequently used by groups of all ages. The Open University had a regular Sunday slot for many years when their Science Foundation Course summer school was based at Keele.

3. Apes Tor, and Ecton Hill, Wetton, Staffs, part of the Hamps and Manifold SSSI. This is an excellent locality to study the geometry of fold structures, as modelled with strips of foam and card at the 2003 UKRIGS Conference. Ecton Hill itself has the remains of copper mining, where school groups have worked on exercises related to vein mineralization and industrial processes.

We are spoiled for choice for the two other sites, which will leave plenty for another day. A success with this 8-month pilot will enable UKRIGS to bid for funding to extend the project nationwide and to include a greater element of liaising with RIGS Groups, teachers and a wide range of other partner organisations.

The examples of Earth science field teaching activities produced by the project will be initially available on the UKRIGS website and on CD, with some paper copies.

UKRIGS acknowledges the continued support from English Nature through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and welcomes the opportunity to use the legacy of aggregates sites to support teachers and RIGS Groups involved in educational activities within their communities.

The Project is managed by John Reynolds jr.reynolds@virgin.net
ukrigs@nationalstonecentre.org.uk
www.ukrigs.org.uk

The Aggregates levy is a tax on primary aggregates introduced in April 2002, which aims to address the environmental and social cost of aggregate extraction. English Nature, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency administer Defra funding arising from the levy. English Nature will have awarded grants totalling £12 Million over three years.

Further information about English Nature and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Grants Scheme can be found on:
www.english-nature.org.uk

Tony Pugh Paintings

The series of painting depicting current and geological period landscapes painted by Tony Pugh and owned by the NSGGA were on view in the art gallery, and reportedly well received, at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery during the 7th UKRIGS Annual Conference 2-4 September 2004

NSGGA Field Trip programme for 2005

Sat 16th April Wood Lane Gravel Pit, Ellesmere

Leader: Peter Mold

Start: 10:30 am, 2-3 hour visit. Details to follow

Glacial gravel pit owned by Tudor Griffiths Group. Museum with glacial erratics.

Weekend 20-22 May Geology of Anglesey - weekend with Essex Group

Leader: Dr Ros Todhunter

Precambrian and Carboniferous. Parys Mountain, Carmel Head, South Stack, Holyhead quartzite, Newborough Warren and bays. 3-4 miles walking per day. Anyone wanting further information please contact Eileen Fraser e-mail fraser@fraserco.co.uk Also please see [flyer](#) and return as soon as possible as we need an indication of numbers.

Sun 12 June Mam Tor - Derbyshire

Leader: Chris Arkwright

Start: TBA.

Namurian delta sediments & Dinantian Limestones.

Sat 16 July Hawkstone Park Geology

Leader: Chris Rayner of Shropshire GA

Start: 10.30am at the Visitors Centre.

The geology of both the natural and man-made landscapes of this amazing north Shropshire parkland. It will be a moderately strenuous day with some rough walking.

Sun 7 August Wenlock Edge

Leader: Dr David Ray

Start: TBA

Examining Wenlock Edge as a continuation of the trip last year to the Wrens Nest at Dudley.

Sun 11 Sept Lathkill Dale

Leader: Fred Broadhurst

Start: 10:30 a.m. Details TBA

Carboniferous limestone and fossils

NSGGA - Next Committee Meeting

- **Thursday 25 November 2004 at 7.00pm**
in the School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University

Staffordshire RIGS Group

For details about the Group and meetings, contact:

SRIGS Secretary: Ray Robinson,

SRIGS, PO Box 89, Buxton SK17 0WX ☎ 07810 152514

email: rayrobinson99@hotmail.com or ray.robinson@astrazeneca.com

Contacts List: NSGGA Committee 2004-05

Chairman: Peter Floyd,

5 Betley Hall Gardens, Betley, near Crewe, Cheshire CW3 9BB ☎ 01270 820538
email: floyd.pa@virgin.net

Vice-chairman: Mike Fereday,

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

email: fraser@fraserco.co.uk

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