

Bulletin

Number 72

January 2005



Programme

All talks are 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 [return the form](#) to attend

17 March 2005, 7.30pm start

AGM and Chairman's Address - The K/T Boundary event

Dr. Peter Floyd (NSGGA Chairman)

[AGM Agenda](#)

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

Field Excursions:

16 April 2005

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.

NSGGA Field Trip programme for 2005

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

There is still ONE double room available in the Hotel, please contact Eileen. After this room is taken, anyone else wishing to come will need to book their own bed and breakfast.

Sun 12 June Mam Tor - Derbyshire

Leader: Chris Arkwright

Start: to be announced

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: to be announced

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: 10:30am **Details:** to be announced

Carboniferous limestone and fossils

**For more information about the field trips please contact NSGGA Field Secretaries -
Elizabeth Hallam and Eileen Fraser**

Mow Cop Tunnels & Tramways

IntroAct have produced, with the help of Crewe Caving Club, a couple of videos that relate to the geology of the Mow Cop and Astbury area. These are entitled:

*Mow Cop Tunnels and Tramways, and
Astbury Hydraulic Lime Company*

The tunnel, which runs down the Cheshire side of Mow Cop, apparently reveals some interesting information about the 'Red Rock Fault'.

Copies are available from Ralph Johnson (01782 515753 RJohnCAVE@aol.com) and cost £9.95 - although there is the potential for a price reduction if the Group puts in a bulk order.

David Thompson Presentation

On Thursday 9 December the Earth Science Teachers' Association (ESTA) took the opportunity of the North Staffs Group GA Christmas Social to make a presentation to David Thompson for "services rendered" to both ESTA and the geological community as a whole.

After a brief welcome from Peter Floyd to all present Chris King gave an insight into the vast range of David's talents and his involvement in the development of the teaching of Earth Sciences and Geology in this country and worldwide. John Reynolds and Chris King read brief extracts from letters that had been received from colleagues in the UK and Abroad including the USA, Canada and India.

Peter Styles (Geol Soc President) presented David with a framed copy of the hand-coloured 1857 Geological Survey 1" Sheet 72NW - [Newcastle, Stoke & Cheadle]. Also present were Susan Brown (Geologists' Assoc Past-President), Martin Whitely (ESTA Chairman), Richard Kempa, a former colleague at Keele and Luis Marques, who had travelled from Portugal for the presentation.

David gave a short response thanking everyone for the map and their kind thoughts.

The evening then continued with a buffet and drinks to be followed by a talk by Elizabeth Hallam on her recent holiday in the Canadian Rockies. The evening was rounded off with a quiz devised by Peter Floyd, the winner being Colin Exley.

"Down the Mine"

As part of the BBC TV series on the Natural History of Great Britain we held an event at the Potteries Museum in Hanley on Saturday 2nd October. The theme was the "Mining Heritage of North Staffordshire and the Peak District" and was supported by Apedale Heritage Centre, The Peak District Mining Museum, Long Rake Spar and Glebe Mines Ltd.

55 children plus their parents and grandparents took part. The many activities were a lot of fun for everyone, including a mine tunnel, a spoil heap with minerals to be collected and mineral separation by panning jigging and buddling. There were several exhibits and displays of mining memorabilia and interesting posters and photographs.

Thanks to all who helped out before and on the day.

Mike Fereday

Report on the GA Annual Meeting

held at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff on Friday 5 November 2004

The President Robin Cocks welcomed all present. Some 30 people attended representing a number of Local Groups and Affiliated Societies (LG&AS). Each representative was asked to introduce him/herself. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

Regional Meetings

GA Council has suggested that instead of the GA holding all of its monthly lecture meetings in London there should be one meeting a year held in one of the regions as a joint meeting with a local group or affiliated society.

The Speaker should ideally be one of high standing and it would need to be planned well in advance. Susan Brown advised the meeting that there is funding that could be used for this purpose and she has already broached the idea with Bristol University for 2006 and possibly Keele University for 2005. It was apparent that she was talking about a different approach from the one suggested by the President. She has in mind for a day of lectures with a number of talks, some being short talks given by students at the relevant

university.

The meeting was generally in agreement with the principle of holding one evening lecture meeting outside London. The President made a request that local groups and affiliated societies should consider the matter and make an offer to the GA to organise a joint meeting in Autumn 2005 (possibly November). Any offer to organise such a meeting should be forwarded to the GA by end November 2004.

Reports on temporary exposures

The GA would be pleased to receive reports on any temporary exposures created by building or construction work. One representative raised the difficulty of gaining access to such sites, it was noted that if a group has difficulty then the GA could issue a letter stating that the group is insured through the GA.

Another representative commented that many local planning authorities contact the local RIGS group in such circumstances.

Another representative advised the group that UK RIGS is in the process of developing guidelines in collaboration with the Quarry Producers Association to cover such circumstances.

Guidelines for submission of reports for GA publications

Bill French, who prepares the magazine for typesetting, requested that articles for publication should preferably be 1200 words maximum and that any photographs should be high resolution. Digital photographs that have not been taken at high resolution should preferably be submitted as 5" x 3" prints or negatives or slides. They could be submitted on a CD. Details will be published on the GA website and can be found on page 2 of the GA magazine.

Cally Oldershaw (Editor of Teaching Earth Sciences magazine) requested copies of any such reports so that she can use them to inform ESTA members.

Projector facilities

Some groups do not have projection facilities. This matter was raised at last year's annual LG&AS meeting and has been considered by GA Council. It is considered impractical to have a central projection facility that can be called upon by local groups and affiliated societies.

It was noted that most speakers now used PowerPoint for their presentations and that if such facilities are not available the speaker should be advised of this fact. One group pays between £50 and £95 to hire a PowerPoint projector

Rockwatch

Susan Brown reminded the representatives that Rockwatch is thriving and asked local groups and affiliated societies to consider organising activities for children in their area under the banner of Rockwatch. The Rockwatch Roadshow will be out in force during the Cardiff weekend and Susan requested help from anyone willing to do so.

On the matter of Rockwatch field trips she advised representatives that they should always insist that parents accompany the children.

Any Other Business

a) **GA Group Insurance Documents** no longer carry the name of the local group or affiliated society. Can this be added in future as this can be used to confirm that a group has insurance? Sarah Stafford stated that she would do this. The President asked whether there have been any problems so far? There have been no problems but then again there have been no claims. It was suggested that there should be guidelines for action in the event of an accident. Number One: Do not admit liability.

b) **One group organised a 2 week field trip to the Languedoc region of France** they had some problems getting the necessary number of participants. They asked whether it would be possible to contact local groups and affiliated societies, via e-mail for a rapid response. Sarah Stafford commented that not all of her contacts have e-mail; she therefore prefers to use post to make sure that she does not miss someone. It was agreed that each group should supply Sarah with two e-mail addresses that could be used in such circumstances.

c) **Can reports of GA lecture meetings be reported in the GA Magazine?**

One representative commented that such reports would be of interest to group members who are unable to attend London meetings and might well lead to a request for the speaker to visit a local group.

d) **Attendance at GA London meetings by non-GA Members.**

The representatives were advised that, with effect from January 2005, any non-GA member who wished to attend a GA meeting in London would be asked to pay £5. This would not apply in the event of a regional joint meeting.

e) **GA Annual Meeting for Local Groups and Affiliated Societies.**

The regular pattern for the annual meeting that has been established would mean that the 2005 and 2006 meetings would be held in London. The President enquired whether any local group or affiliated society would be interested in organising the meeting in 2007? It was pointed out that 2007 will be the Bi-Centenary of the Geological Society and that 2008 will be the 150th Anniversary of the GA. Hilary Davies commented that in 2008 Liverpool will be the European Capital of Culture and would like to stake a claim to host the meeting in 2008. One representative commented that Scarborough had been an excellent venue and hoped that this could be a venue at some time in the future.

RIGS on the Web

Just prior to the recent UKRIGS Conference in Dudley, UKRIGS were pleased to announce the relaunch of their web-site which has been totally revamped thanks to generous sponsorship by English Nature. This new site has initially been developed upon the contents of the original one which had been actively supported by Derek France since its inception. However, the new design allows for a number of new aspects to the site, much of which will depend on the support of the UKRIGS membership.

Firstly, there is an 'Events Diary', which at the time of writing is empty. As webmaster, I would encourage all the RIGS Groups to submit their field meetings to the web-site, it is accessible to all and you may gain new recruits if they find the events interesting.

Secondly, there is a 'Members Area' - presently this has very little in it, but it is hoped that over time information of interest to the membership will be posted here for reading or download.

Thirdly, there is a 'Contacts Database', to the general public, this will give primary contacts for all the RIGS Groups in the UK, although we are currently in the process of ensuring the data is accurate and up-to-date. There will soon be an online means of reporting changes. To members, this will be developed as a full contacts list, i.e. anyone who wishes to be involved in the UKRIGS movement will be listed, but only accessible to the membership.

As an add-on to the web-site UKRIGS has established a number of easy to remember emails, headed by info@ukrigs.org.uk which now forms the primary means of electronic contact to the Association. The key members of the Executive Committee also have similar

e-mails; chair@ukrigs.org.uk , etc. The Executive Committee have now decided to roll this system out the UKRIGS membership as a whole and are offering to set up any UKRIGS member group with a unique UKRIGS e-mail - these will all have the format of county (or abbrev)@ukrigs.org.uk (e.g. staffs@ukrigs.org.uk) - the advantage of this system will be that (1) it will be independent of any changes in contact details at the individual RIGS Groups and (2) it will hide the true e-mail if it is a personal email which is being used. As the UKRIGS Webmaster, I'm awaiting your call! Please e-mail your events, news or contact details to me at webmaster@ukrigs.org.uk

Craig Slawson, Staffordshire Ecological Record
extract from UKRIGS Newsletter 2(2), 2004

NSGGA - Next Committee Meeting

- **Thursday 13 January 2005 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,

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

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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; David 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 meetings

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